

# Safetree Professional Forest Worker Certification

- Certification is a great way for tree-fellers and breakers-out to keep their skills up-to-date.
- It tells everyone they've been independently assessed as able to work safely.
- That means they're doing what a WorkSafe inspector would expect to see, and know how to protect themselves and their crew mates.

Certification doesn't replace other training. It's a way to confirm trained workers are still on top of their game. Free tools are available on Safetree.nz to help people get ready for certification.

## What happens?

To become certified workers must pass an assessment by an independent assessor. The assessment tests their knowledge of the ACOP, best practice guides and unit standards. Practical skills are also checked, including how to manage risks. To stay certified, workers must be re-assessed annually to ensure they stay up-to-date with changes to health and safe practice. If workers do well on their assessments for three years, there is scope to reduce how frequently they need to be re-assessed in future.

## How long does it take?

First time around it usually takes a couple of visits to achieve certification. The first visit is an introduction to the process that doubles as a benchmarking exercise to see where workers are at against the standards. The assessment gets into full swing on the second visit. Sometimes extra visits are needed before someone can show they've reached the standard in all areas.

## Preparing for the assessment is easy

There are free tools on Safetree.nz to help people get ready for certification. These include an online game/mobile app for tree-fallers, and hard copy assessment tools for fallers and breaker-outs. These help people identify any gaps in their knowledge, or out-of-date practices. The tools also say where to go to find the right answer to the questions.

## What else is expected?

Crews have to show that what they're doing is normal practice and not just a show put on for the assessment. This can be done by giving the assessor records like audits done by forest owners; safe behaviour observations by other crew members; or log books showing when checks have been done and the outcomes. Certification can be suspended if a worker breaches critical safety rules.

## How do I get started?

Go to [Safetree.nz/training](https://www.safetree.nz/training) and use the game or assessment tools to test for any gaps or out-of-date practices. Where needed, use the links to the ACoP and best practice guides to find answers to questions. To arrange an assessment, click on the link to the list of assessors and contact them directly.

**For more information see [Safetree.nz/training](https://www.safetree.nz/training)**