

**WANT YOUR CREWS TO BE RECOGNISED
BY THE INDUSTRY FOR THEIR SKILLS?**

Then help your workers go for *Safetree Professional Forest Worker Certification*

Certification is a great way to keep your workers' skills up-to-date - handy if they got trained a while ago.

It confirms your workers have been independently assessed on the job as able to work professionally and safely.

That means they're doing what a WorkSafe inspector would expect to see, and know how to protect themselves and their mates.

Tree Fellers, Head Breaker Outs and Breaker Outs can all get the certificates.

To help people prepare, free, easy-to-use tools can be downloaded from www.Safetree.nz.

Assessments are done on site in writing or verbally. What counts is whether your workers know their stuff – not how well they fill out forms.

The certificate doesn't replace unit standards or other training. It's a way to confirm that trained workers are still on top of their game.

This voluntary, industry supported scheme is a way to show customers that you and your crews know how to do the job right.

What happens?

An independent assessor, appointed by the Forestry Industry Safety Council (FISC), will visit the worksite to do the assessment.

Workers are tested on their knowledge of the relevant Agreed Code of Practice (ACoP), best practice guides and unit standards.

Their practical skills are also checked – like their use of PPE and how they manage risks.

The assessment can be done verbally or in writing.

If the worker passes, they get a certificate.

Workers are re-assessed annually to make sure they stay up-to-date with changes to health and safe practices.

They get a 'passport' that's stamped every time they pass. This confirms they're certified.

If a worker passes in a single visit three years in a row, the frequency of the tests can be pushed out to every two years.

The names of certified workers are recorded on an online register run by FISC - so everyone can see they've got what it takes to do the job.

How long does it take?

First time around it usually takes 2–3 visits to achieve certification.

The first visit is an introduction to the process that doubles as a benchmarking exercise to see where the worker is at against the standards.

The assessment gets into full swing on the second visit.

Sometimes extra visits are needed before a worker can show they've reached the standard in all areas.

Preparing for the assessment is easy

You and your workers can prepare by downloading free tools from www.safetree.nz. (See below)

These will help identify any gaps in knowledge, or out-of-date practices.

What else is expected?

Workers need to be able to show that what they're doing is normal practice and not just a show put on for the assessor. They can do this by providing records like audits done by forest owners; safe behaviour observations by fellow crew members; or log book entries showing when checks have been done, and the outcomes.

Certification can be suspended if a worker is found to be in breach of critical health and safety rules.

How do I get started?

1. Download the training tools:

- ▶ Head Breaker Out – http://safetree.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Safetree-HBO_Competency_Assess.pdf
- ▶ Tree Felling – http://safetree.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Safetree-TF_Competency_Assess.pdf
- ▶ Breaker Out – http://safetree.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Safetree-BO_Competency_Assess.pdf

2. You can find answers to the questions in the training tools in the:

- ▶ ACoP <http://safetree.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/forest-operations.pdf> and
- ▶ Relevant best practice guides <https://www.competenz.org.nz/industries/forestry/#section-238>.

3. Use the tools to check your workers can answer the theory questions and meet the standards in the practical demonstrations.

4. When your worker is ready contact info@safetree.nz to arrange an assessment.

5. Give the completed training tool to the assessor at the start of the assessment.