

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

# **Then talk to your boss about going for Safetree Professional Forest Worker Certification**

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

It tells everyone you've been independently assessed on the job as able to work professionally and safely; a regular re-assessment of competency.

That means you're doing what a WorkSafe inspector would expect to see, and know how to protect yourself and your mates.

Tree Fellers and Breaker Outs can get the certificates.

To help you prepare, free, easy-to-use tools can be downloaded from [www.Safetree.nz](http://www.Safetree.nz).

Assessments are done on site in writing or verbally. What counts is whether you know your stuff – not how well you 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.

## **What happens?**

An independent assessor, appointed by the Forest Industry Safety Council (FISC) will visit your workplace to do the assessment.

You will be tested on your knowledge of the relevant Agreed Code of Practice (ACoP), best practice guides and unit standards.

Your practical skills are also checked – like your use of PPE and how you manage risks. If you pass, you get a certificate.

You'll be re-assessed annually to make sure you stay up-to-date with changes to health and safe practices and you will remain on the register.

If you pass in a single visit three years in a row, in future you'll only be re-tested every two years.

Your name will go on an online register run by FISC – so everyone can see you've got what it takes to do the job.

## 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 you're 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

You can prepare by downloading free tools from [www.safetree.nz](http://www.safetree.nz).

Your foreman or employer can work through these with you. They'll help you identify any gaps in your knowledge, or out-of-date practices.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?

When being re-assessed, you and your boss have got to show what you're doing is normal practice and not just a show put on for the day. This can be done by providing the assessor with 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 safety rules.

## How do I get started?

1. Tell your foreman/employer you want to go for certification. Then download the training tools:
  - Head Breaker Out – <https://safetree.nz/resources/head-breaker-out-competency-assessment-tool/>
  - Tree Felling – <https://safetree.nz/resources/safetree-tree-faller-assessment-tools/>
  - Breaker Out – <https://safetree.nz/resources/breaker-out-competency-assessment/>
2. You can find answers to the questions in the training tools in the:
  - ACoP – <https://safetree.nz/resources/approved-code-of-practice-for-safety-and-health-in-forestry-operations/> and
  - Relevant best practice guides – <https://safetree.nz/resources/best-practice-guidelines/>.
3. Use the tools to ensure you can answer the theory questions and meet the standards in the practical demonstrations.
4. When you're ready, get your boss to contact [info@safetree.nz](mailto:info@safetree.nz) to arrange an assessment.
5. Give the completed training tool to the assessor at the start of the assessment.