



STANDARDS OF CORK DEBARKER CERTIFICATE



Include in all translations:
Original version in Catalan

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version 2024

What the candidate should be able to do:

Perform the maintenance of tools and machines, preparing the tree and de-barking a certain amount of cork in an efficient way.

The certificate awarded to the candidates will be issued by manual and/or machine-assisted cork harvesting. Catalan axe recommended.

CDC-1	SAFETY DURING MAINTENANCE AND CORK HARVESTING –PPE The operator must wear appropriate PPE for tool maintenance and cork extraction	ERROR
1:01	Safety Footwear	
1:02	Eye protection as appropriate	
1:03	Personal/Squad First Aid kit – on every work site	
1:04	Gloves appropriate to task	

CDC-2	DAILY TOOL MAINTENANCE The cork harvester person must be able to check the functioning of parts or tools.	
2:01	Correct axe position for manual sharpening. Flat stone against the blade and hand behind	
2:02	Checking for the correct cut and angles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Axe angles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cutting plane line and handle ● Axe blade with uniform and gradual sharpening until cutting angle ● Uniformly rounded leaf apexes ○ Handle bevel angle 	
CDC-3	RISK ASSESSMENT, LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS Assisted by the assessor – Oral and/or written	
3:01	RISK ASSESSMENT: general environmental and tree specific. Walk around the site. EMERGENCY PLAN – Assessor checks the information	
3:02	Inspect the work area visually to avoid potential hazards: stones, low branches, or regrowth of the tree itself or other solid objects	
3:03	Check the vegetation for other hazards, e.g. toxic plants or sap, thorny vegetation (e.g. brambles or sarsaparilla), insects (ants) and other biological hazards	

CDC-4		PREVIOUS OPERATIONAL CHECKS
4:01	Observation of the overall state of the tree: state of health, crown, foliage, and/or damage, pathologies or deformities caused by previous harvesting, etc.	
4:02	Clearing of the undergrowth necessary working area around the tree, to avoid risk of snagging bushes/shrubs/branches with the axe, if necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surrounding vegetation of the tree/trunk ○ Dead upper branches on trunk ○ Others (sarsaparilla, brambles, ivy, ...) 	
4:03	Visually detect anomalies in morphology or parts of cork/bark that could cause difficulties or damage to the tree.	
4:04	Handle the axe correctly to avoid accidents	
4:05	Check if the cork is removed correctly, always following the longitudinal direction with as low damage as possible (without cutting with the tip of the axe blade) and know how to interpret the visual and acoustic signals that indicate this	
4:06	Decide when to stop and move to the next tree. In the case of detecting that the cork or plank is not removed correctly so as not to damage the tree	

CDC-5		SAFE AND ERGONOMICALLY CORRECT REMOVAL/HARVESTING OPERATION
The operator must be able to establish a safe system of work and operate the machine in a safe and efficient manner		
5:01	Make a sequence of vertical cuts first and crown cuts in an orderly and efficient manner so as not to injure the tree unnecessarily and remove the cork/cork plank. Never start at the transversal cut or "neck". Same for the machine	
5:02	To crown (transversal cut or "neck cut") at the right/correct height according to tree, environment, type of cork and regulations safely. Same for the machine	
5:03	Leave some attached parts unremoved cork or insulated to avoid injury (e.g. squares, shaving, etc.) if the cork/cork plank is not removed properly	
5:04	Remove the cork or plank correctly and effectively. Use the handle of the axe and/or cane to split the cork/cork plank apart until it is removed without injuring the parent layer	
5:05	Efficiently finish the foot, tap with the hammer (if necessary) and/or dislocate to leave the feet free of cork remnants in the root collar, hollowing or cupping	
5:06	Select the points at which to split the cork/planks, either longitudinally or transversally on large trees, in order to optimise the resulting pieces	
5:07	Lay the corks/planks/pieces properly on the ground (upside down).	
5:08	Stacking or transporting parts to accumulate an adequate quantity of planks/removed parts to optimise transport	
5:09	Move between trees with the axe held correctly to avoid risks	
5:10	Establish effective communication between operators	
5:11	Decide when the removal process is finished to avoid possible damage to the tree.	
5:12	Disinfect the axe and auxiliary tools between trees with a solution/spray of ethanol 80% at the end of the activity in case of suspicion	

Activity financed through Operation 01.02.01 Technology Transfer of the Rural Development Programme of Catalonia 2014-2022.