

Brushcutters/Trimmers - Maintenance And Operation

CLMC08X CLMC08RX

Course Objectives

To enable course members to:

- state and comply with safety and legal requirements of a brushcutter/trimmer, with an emphasis on safe practices, warning signs and guards
- state and identify the correct protective clothing to wear and the standards required
- perform routine maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's handbook
- identify faults and defects on a brushcutter/trimmer and decide which the operator can easily remedy, and which should be referred to a specialist engineer
- identify which cutting head to select for the relevant operating conditions
- carry out fuel mixing correctly and be able to start the brushcutter/trimmer from both a hot and a cold condition in a safe manner
- operate the brushcutter/trimmer in a safe manner having regard for the safety of themselves, the public, property and environmental factors
- plan systematic working operations
- use the manufacturer's instruction book and parts list

The use of the manufacturer's instruction book is stressed at all times to ensure maintenance and adjustments are carried out to manufacturers' recommendations.

Who is the Course For?

- Any person employed in agriculture, horticulture, landscaping and grounds maintenance who is or will be required to operate Brushcutters/trimmers. Inexperienced members may require longer than the stated guide times to fully utilise the information supplied.

NOS / NVQ / SVQ Links

- Treework NOS: Level 2 unit T8: "Control unwanted plant growth around trees" (Motor-manual aspects)

Duration/Format

- Two days for novices (CLMC08X)
- One day for experienced operators (Evidence of experience required) (CLMC08R)

Instructor/Trainee Ratio

Max: 1:6

Machine: trainee ratio = 1:1 or 1:2

Course Content

Introduction

Safety

Protective clothing

Components and maintenance

Fuelling and starting

Testing the safety features

Checking the Brushcutter/Trimmer

Safe operation in a variety of operating conditions

Round up and conclusions

Facilities/Equipment required:

Organiser

Lapel badges
First aid equipment (which complies with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981
Fire extinguisher
Brushcutters/trimmers complying with safety regulations as per pre-course handout (at least one machine per two trainees)
Operators' instruction books and service manuals for all machinery
Flipchart board (for newsprint, flipcharts etc plus pens)
Location map reference and telephone number of hospital with emergency service
Suitable vehicle for accident emergencies
Venue
Dry, clean workshop with adequate work benches with light and heating if necessary.
Suitable site for practical operation including foliage requiring at least two different cutting heads

Instructor/Tutor

First aid equipment (which complies with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981
Ear defenders
Safety goggles
Examples/photographs of worn or damaged blades/parts/cutting heads etc
Comprehensive tool kit
Correctly labelled fuel (2 and 4 stroke)

Trainee

Brushcutters/trimmers complying with safety regulations
Operators' instruction books and service manuals for all machinery
Notebook and pencil
Ear defenders
Safety goggles and other protective clothing
Fuel in appropriate container for own brushcutter
Tool kit for own brushcutter

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**Publications included
in package**
**Instructor – Basic
Registration Criteria**

Skills Guide
Assessment Report Form
Please refer to the Lantra Awards Instructor Information pack.

**Instructor –
Technical Skills
Knowledge and
Experience**

Individuals must have a proven track record of at least 5 years operator competence. In addition they must possess Lantra Certificates of basic training, National Proficiency Tests Council or Scottish Skills Testing Service certificates of competence. Evidence of regular updates must be provided where a certificate of competence was obtained, 2 or more years previous.

**Instructor –
Certification (if
desirable)**

All instructors with chainsaw and arboricultural skills must possess a current First Aid at Work certificate obtained as a result of attendance at an HSE approved 4 day course or an appropriate refresher programme. Evidence of this must be provided before the relevant skills can be added to your index.