

## **CPD Modules - Chainsaw (ground-based and aerial related activities) and Utility Arboriculture Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

### **Q. Why have City & Guilds introduced (Continuous Professional Development) CPD modules?**

**A.** City & Guilds have worked together with industry partners, to highlight the importance of maintaining a competent workforce that can demonstrate up-to-date knowledge and skills, within their day-to-day working practices. The Continuous Professional Development (CPD) modules have been developed to support this requirement.

### **Q. What are the prior conditions (pre-requisites) for the CPD modules?**

**A. Chainsaw** - Candidates must hold the relevant City & Guilds or equivalent Ofqual regulated certificate of competence for each qualification they are adding CPD for.

**A. Utility Arboriculture** - Candidates must hold the relevant City & Guilds AUA10 qualification (providing evidence of experience of working in industry subsequent to achieving the qualification) or hold the relevant City & Guilds 0038 qualification or hold an equivalent Ofqual regulated certificate of competence for each qualification they are adding CPD for.

### **Q. We understand that City & Guilds developed some new qualifications within the 0038 suite. Do candidates have to take the new qualifications first before they can take the corresponding CPD module?**

**A.** City & Guilds have developed 3 new qualifications within the 0038 suite which are the 0038-34 Assisted Felling, 0038-35 MEWP, and 0038-41 Level 4 Resilience Surveyor. As these qualifications are totally new, candidates will need to complete these qualifications first before they are able to register for the relevant CPD modules.

However, with regards to the 0041-10 Assisted Felling CPD module it shall be acceptable for candidates to register if they currently hold the old UA2.2 qualification. This is acceptable, as safe felling within close proximity to the electrical network has been previously demonstrated and assessed in the old UA 2.2, so the use of holding cuts would have been covered on the original chainsaw training and assessment.

### **Q. Will existing Chainsaw and Utility Arb assessors be able to assess the new UA units and corresponding CPD modules?**

**A.** Assessors that attended one of the assessor update sessions and completed the short activity following this session will be able to deliver the CPD modules that corresponds to any qualification they already assess on behalf of City & Guilds

Assessors who attended the recertification events held in 2021 and met the required standard for the previous version of the individual units will automatically have the corresponding new version added to their portfolio.

**Q. It's already been identified that there have been 3 brand new qualifications added to the utility Arboriculture suite, Assisted Tree Felling, Use of a Chainsaw from a MEWP, and Resilience ETR 132 Arboriculture Surveyor, will these new units be automatically added to an assessor portfolio?**

**A.** An assessor who previously assessed UA 2.2 Prune and Fell Trees (Ground) and attended the recertification events held in 2021 and met the required standard for assisting felling will have City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate of Competence in Utility Arboriculture Assisted Tree Felling (0038-34) added to their portfolio but will need to undertake a technical evaluation in the other new units.

**Q. The 'old' AUA10 qualifications include an expiry date. If a candidate holds an expired UA1, is that considered acceptable as meeting pre-requisite entry requirements for 0038 suite? Or as it has 'expired' would the candidate be required to achieve new version 003830 L3 Basic Electrical Knowledge?**

**A.** If the expected time in which a UA qualification should have been updated has surpassed its recommendation of 3 years, the new version of the 0038 suite will need to be taken before other units or CPD modules can be undertaken.

**Q. Do the CPD modules have an expiry date like the previous utility arb recertification process?**

**A.** Originally the 3-year expiry date was designed to replicate other areas of the utility industry needing to undertake a 3-year worker accreditation process (WAP) to maintain competencies. The new CPD modules have no expiry date, but Individuals who are qualified utility arboriculturists are required to have refresher training in-line with PUWER recommendations to maintain competency, unless otherwise stated by their local distribution network operator.

**Q. CPD registration cost is listed as £33 per module on the November price list. I checked the City & Guilds Centre latest December price list, which now lists the cost as £16 per module for the utility arboriculture level 3 qualifications. Is this correct?**

**A.** After much discussion it was agreed that as multiple CPD modules would normally have to be registered within the utility arb sector, that a price reduction to £16 was appropriate for the level 3 modules, however the cost will remain at £33 per module for the level 4 modules. These registration prices also apply for the UA qualifications.

**Q. Previously we were able to "upskill" by completing a higher unit, will this still be the case?**

**A.** Upskilling would certainly fulfill the criteria for continuous professional development, potentially replacing the requirement to complete CPD modules, but this would need to be checked against and in line with individual employers' requirements.

**Q. When registering multiple units for the new Utility arb CPD modules, each one has a separate ROA, would it be possible to have the multiple units on a single ROA?**

**A.** Currently this is not possible, but in the future City & Guilds will investigate this.

**Q. The new CPD modules for Utility Arb are not on the latest version of recommended assessment times, are these available?**

**A.** We have not included the CPD modules in the recommended assessment timings documents, as the length of time it takes to assess a candidate will depend upon their current level of competence. We will seek feedback from our assessors at the planned standard setting events to see whether a set of average unit module times can be produced.

**Q. My understanding is that these new UA qualifications, once awarded on the successful completion of the assessment, are now valid for life. Is this correct?**

**A.** Yes, this is correct. The new Utility Arboriculture qualifications are regulated (Regulated Qualifications demonstrate that the learner has attended a qualification approved by both a UK regulator and a recognised Awarding Organisation). For example, Ofqual regulates qualifications, examinations, and assessments in England and so these qualifications do not have an end date, which means these qualifications are valid for the life of learner who has successfully achieved the qualification.

**Q. If the new Utility Arboriculture qualifications are for the life of the learner, does this mean that there is no longer the requirement for reassessment every 3 years?**

**A.** For individuals who are qualified utility arboriculturists, an industry requirement and under Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) it is recommended to have refresher training every 3 to 5 years. City & Guilds have produced CPD/Refresher modules for every utility arboriculture qualification so utility arboriculturists can undertake refresher training and assessment.

**Q. With the demise of the FISA refresher training modules will the City & Guilds Chainsaw CPD modules qualify for 'Plus F status'?**

**A.** None of the current City & Guilds NPTC Chainsaw quals have a 'Plus F' status, this is something that FISA attached to their own refresher training and some organisations have attached to their products. The CPD modules are a re-evaluation of a candidate's practical skills to the criteria of the relevant current qualification. All existing City & Guilds Chainsaw qualifications are nationally accepted within the Forest industry. The Forest England Training Dept have acknowledged the NPTC CPD modules.

**Q. Do the CPD modules replace existing quals?**

**A.** No all existing NPTC quals are valid for life unless otherwise stated. The CPD modules are purely a way of confirming or validating a candidate's competence at any period of time since their original qualification was taken. This may be done as a stand-alone process or as a part of a refresher training program.

**Q. How many Candidates could be assessed in any given day?**

**A.** A maximum of 4 candidates on-site at one time would be the guidance for any ground-based and aerial related activities in a Training/Assessment environment. Depending on the particular CPD module being assessed we expect 4 to be a maximum.

**Q. What is the duration and are there any min/max assessment times issued?**

**A.** No, the duration of an assessment may vary depending on how the CPD module is assessed. It may be spread over the duration of a refresher training program, at the end of a stand-alone assessment. It is expected to take approximately 75% of the time of the existing qualification due to the reduced assessment criteria.

**Q. Are the CPD modules independent, non-independent or integrated?**

**A.** The CPD modules have not been attached a classification as this will be down to how and when the assessment takes place. Obviously, the assessor can be the same person that has trained the candidate previously, or as part of a refresher training program, or an independent assessor brought in to assess the unit/s.

**Q. What is the price to register the modules?**

**A.** The price list is presented on the NPTC website.

**Q. What information is required to register a candidate?**

**A.** Candidates will need to have an email address, full name, DOB, postal address, and candidate number.

**Q. What is a digital credential?**

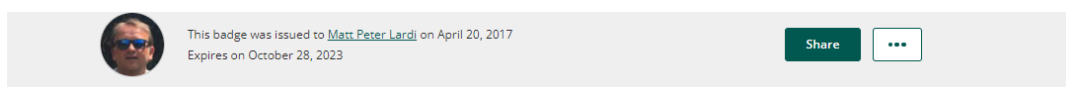
**A.** A documented award by a responsible and authorised body that has determined that an individual has achieved specific learning outcomes relative to a given standard.

**Q. Why do City & Guilds promote digital credentials?**

**A.** Today, to succeed in an evolving landscape, learners need to communicate, and organisations need to verify behaviours, skills, and knowledge in a digital format to overcome traditional barriers when it comes to communicating skills.

**Q. How can a person validate their personal identity and proof of successful completion of CPD Chainsaw / Utility Arboriculture modules?**

**A.** When a learner achieves the CPD they will be issued with a digital credential. The earner of the credential will (if not already done) need to log into the Credly platform and set themselves up as a user. This requires them to provide a name and gives the earner an option to also upload a photograph. See below example of similar credential issued for NRoSO membership.



[Additional Details](#)

### NROSO Membership Card

Issued by [Skills Solutions Service Delivery Team](#)

A central register of sprayer operators using Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as a means of ensuring ongoing training. The scheme is open to anybody who holds an appropriate certificate of competence qualification approved by the Chemical Regulations Directorate (CRD) for the safe application of pesticides.

#### Skills

Integrated Pest Management   NROSO   Voluntary Initiative

#### Earning Criteria

As a member you are required to collect 30 or more Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points in each three-year period to qualify for membership renewal. A wide range of CPD events and courses are approved for NROSO members. Events and courses are publicised in the agricultural press, by colleges, in local training providers' newsletters and under the events section of this website.

#### Evidence


Membership Number  
123456

The earner has the option to download the digital credential into a phone wallet where it can be shown to anyone asking for proof of qualification. Alternatively, the earner can log into the Credly platform and show them any of the digital credentials they have earned. The digital credential also has the added security that it can be verified to show when it was issued, who it was issued by, and name of earner, etc.

This badge was issued to [Matt Peter Lardi](#) on April 20, 2017  
Expires on October 28, 2023 Verify

### NROSO Membership Card

Issued by Skills Solutions Service Delivery Team



Additional Details

#### Verification

- ✓ Issued on April 20, 2017
- ✓ Issued by Skills Solutions Service Delivery Team
- ✓ Issued using Credly
- ✓ Issued to Matt Peter Lardi
- ✓ Accepted on April 21, 2021
- ✓ Last Updated April 21, 2021
- ✓ **VERIFIED**

Professional Development (CPD) as a requirement for anybody who holds an appropriate licence from the Chemical Regulations Directorate (CRD)

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a requirement for membership renewal. A wide range of CPD activities, events and courses are publicised in our members' newsletters and under the events