

STANDARDS & REGULATION

How standards and regulation fit into this guide

This section provides key references to applicable arborist industry standards throughout Canada. This is not a comprehensive collection of all applicable regulation and standard. Always check with local, regional and national governance to be sure you are in line with the rules. Referenced below are key subsection standards from ANSI, CSA, Worksafe BC, and OSHA relating to arboriculture. It is important to recognize that some regulating bodies are regional and may supersede other industry standard. Where standards are not applicable, ANSI or CSA often are defaulted towards.



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WORKSAFE BC



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CANADIAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION



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ARBORIST SAFE WORK PRACTICES ONTARIO



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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ASSOCIATION



STANDARDS & REGULATION***OSHA*****CLICK HERE** ***OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ASSOCIATION***

The Occupational Health and Safety Act or equivalent in your jurisdiction entitles all workers to three rights:

The right to know about health and safety matters.

The right to participate in decisions that could affect their health and safety.

The right to refuse work that could affect their health and safety and that of others.



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OSHA - OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ASSOCIATION

A competent worker is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Each Province has a slightly different definition of what a competent worker is.

Example:

Ontario is “competent person” means a person who;

(a) is qualified because of knowledge, training and experience to organize the work and its performance,

(b) is familiar with this Act and the regulations that apply to the work, and

(c) has knowledge of any potential or actual danger to health or safety in the workplace;

A chart with definitions for each province can be found by clicking the image bellow.



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CSA - CANADIAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION



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Lifelines MBS (minimum breaking strength) as cited by CSA should meet 27kn or 6000lbs.



STANDARDS & REGULATION **ANSI**

ANSI Z133 8.1.10

Carabiners used as part of a climber's work positioning (suspension) system shall be self-closing and self double-locking and shall have gate-locking mechanism that requires at least two consecutive, deliberate actions to unlock. Carabiners shall be capable of withstanding a 5000lb (22.24Kn) load along its major axis with the gate closed without breaking or distortion sufficient to release the gate.



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ANSI Z133 8.2.4

Arborist climbing lines used for moving rope systems shall have a minimum diameter of ½ inch (12.7mm) and be constructed from a synthetic fiber, with a minimum breaking strength of 5,400 pounds (24.02 kilonewtons kn), without terminations when new. Maximum working elongation shall not exceed 7 percent at a load of 540lb (2.402kN). Arborist climbing lines shall be identified by the manufacturer as suitable for tree climbing.



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EXCEPTION In arboricultural operations not subject to regulations that supersede Z133, a line of not less than 7/16 inch (11 mm) diameter may be used, provided the employer can demonstrate it does not create a safety hazard for the arborist and the arborist has been instructed in its use. The line selected shall meet or exceed the standards for arborist climbing lines and shall be identified by the manufacturer as suitable for tree climbing.



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WORKSAFE BC

The following WorkSafe BC references are for educational purposes. If you are not in BC these regulations may not specifically apply to you. However they are good benchmarks for reference purposes.

WorkSafeBC Definitions

In British Columbia Work Safe BC has a very detailed approach to the terms, standards and regulation pertaining to forestry operations and similar activities (AKA Arboriculture)



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(Link to WorkSafeBC Regs)

Employer

includes every person having in their service under a contract of hiring or apprenticeship, whether the contract is written or oral, express or implied, a person engaged in work in or about an industry;

Prime Contractor

- (a) the directing contractor, employer or other person who enters into a written agreement with the owner of the workplace to be the prime contractor for the purposes of the OHS provisions, or
- (b) if there is no written agreement referred to in paragraph (a), the owner of the workplace;

Qualified Arborist

- (a) has knowledge, through training or a combination of education and training, of
 - (i) tree-climbing activities, and
 - (ii) tree-climbing systems,
- (b) has experience
 - (i) engaging in tree-climbing activities, and
 - (ii) using tree-climbing systems, and
- (c) has, as appropriate to the work being done, knowledge, through training or a combination of education and training, of and experience
 - (i) pruning, repairing or maintaining trees, or
 - (ii) taking down trees in pieces or taking down parts of trees

Trainee Arborist

means a person undergoing on-the-job training under the direct supervision of a qualified arborist;



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WORKSAFE BC

REQUIREMENTS RESPECTING TREE CLIMBING ACTIVITIES

Employer must ensure that only qualified arborists or trainee arborists engage in operations.

Employers must ensure that a qualified arborist determines that each tree intended to be climbed is able to withstand the intended loads during the operation and that a thorough tree climbing plan is completed, documented and communicated.

SUMMARY OF SITE SAFETY & RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT (TREE CLIMBING PLAN)

Qualified or Trainee Arborist must:

- Document names and duties of workers involved in operation
- Establish Emergency Action Plan & location to nearest hospital
- Perform Site Risk and Visual Tree Risk Assessment
- Identify Work Activities, Systems and Equipment to be used
- Identify Required PPE & Mitigation/Risk Abatement Strategies
- Ensure Effect Means of Communication are used
- Communicate the entire plan to everyone
- Communicate and document any amendments as necessary as operation progresses
- Document the entire Plan.



WORK SAFE BC

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