ISA
CERTIFIED TREE WORKER
CLIMBER SPECIALIST
HANDBOOK/APPLICATION

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Revised 08/09

I. THE PROGRAM

Certification is a voluntary program providing recognition of one's professional knowledge by one's peers. INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE (ISA) Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist recognition is given by ISA to those who (1) meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the examination as set forth in this application, (2) successfully complete the knowledge and skills examination, (3) maintain the necessary number of continuing education units (CEUs) to recertify after three years, and (4) pay the necessary recertification fees every three years.

The objectives of the Certification Program are

- to be an educational program that will improve technical competency of personnel in the tree care industry.
- to create incentives for these individuals to continue their professional development.
- to provide the public and those in government with a means to identify those professionals who have demonstrated, through a professionally developed exam and education program, that they have thorough knowledge and skill in tree care practices.

The benefits of the Certification Program include the following:

- Certification builds an individual's self-image. By studying for and passing the exam, individuals reaffirm to themselves and their peers a thorough knowledge and dedication to arboriculture.
- Certification affords the public and those in government the opportunity to make an informed selection of services based on the knowledge that is represented by the certification designation.
- The process of becoming certified and maintaining the designation provides incentives to the individual to continue his or her ongoing professional development.
- Certification is a tool to help employers both in training their personnel and selecting new employees.

Program Structure

The ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Examination is made up of two parts. A fifty (50) question multiple choice knowledge exam, and a skills exam. You must pass both parts to obtain the certification credential. Each part is explained in detail in this booklet. The knowledge portion can be taken at any time the ISA Certified Arborist exam is held at an ISA Chapter or at a Pearson Vue Testing Center. The knowledge exam can also be taken on the same day as the skills exam during designated Tree Worker exams. You will need to specify on your application that you are taking the entire exam or which part of the exam you wish to take.

II. THE CONTENT OF THE CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

The certification examination is weighted in the following manner:

I. Safety.....14.0%
II. Removal.....14.0%
III. Rigging.....14.0%
IV. Pruning.....20.0%
V. Cabling.....6.0%
VI. Tree Sciences.....8.0%
VII. Tree ID.....10.0%
VIII. Electrical Hazard Awareness Program.....14.0%

Recommended Study Materials

The ISA Tree Climber's Guide, published by ISA, is intended to serve as a recommended program of study. Other recommended study materials include Basic Training for Tree Climbers video set, the ArborMaster video sets, ANSI Z133 Safety Standards, the A300 Pruning standard, and the ISA Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning booklet.

The Certified Tree Worker Climbing Skills Test—Application Preparation Video, is available from the ISA. This 20-minute video guides the applicant through the entire skills exam and explains what is expected from the applicant during the skills test.

The publications referred to above can be purchased from the International Society of Arboriculture at 1-888-ISA-TREE or www.isa-arbor.com and also through your local ISA Chapter.

How the Examination Was Developed

The certification examination was developed by a panel of industry experts representing all aspects of arboriculture. Questions were derived from a job analysis survey filled out by arborists from around the United States and Canada. Questions are constantly analyzed by the Certification Test Committee using the latest test statistics, and new questions are always being developed. Questions that do not perform satisfactorily are removed from the question bank. New examinations are created on a regular basis.

The Format of the Examination

The certification examination consists of fifty (50) multiple-choice questions. There are forty-five questions drawn from the question bank, 5 are tree identification samples. Each question has 4 choices listed. The answer to each question is independent from the answer to any other question.

Whenever trees are referred to on the exam, both scientific and common names will be given.

You will have 1½-hours to complete the examination. It is always advisable to first answer the questions that are easy for you, returning to those questions that require additional review. Working in such a manner, you should feel no time pressure since 1½-hours should be more than enough time to complete the examination.

Attainment of Certification

If you achieve the passing score for the knowledge and skills exam you will receive the designation of ISA Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist and will be sent a certificate, an ID card, an advertising logo sheet, a hard-hat decal, and a patch.

You must achieve an overall score of at least 70% on the knowledge and 80% on the skills exam. When you receive your knowledge results, please remember that the domains are weighted and the average of the eight domains **WILL NOT** be equal to the overall score.

If you do **NOT** achieve an overall passing score, you must retake the entire exam. You will be allowed to retake the exam **one time for free within one year**. If you do not show up for the scheduled retake exam, **you will forfeit your free retake**. After that, each time you retake for up to one year, there will be a charge of $75 USD. If you do not attain certification within one year from the original test date, you will be required to pay the full amount. An additional $100 administrative fee applies each time you take a computer based exam.

"Prices subject to change without notice."

Denial and Revocation of Certification

Certification will be denied or revoked for any of the following reasons:

- falsification of application
- misrepresentation
- violation of testing procedures
- failure to pass the examination

Denials or revocations of certification may be appealed to the Certification Board in writing.

III. APPLYING FOR YOUR EXAMINATION

Examination Eligibility Requirement

The ISA Certification Board requires a candidate to have a minimum of eighteen (18) months (1 1/2 years) of climbing experience in arboriculture. The candidate must also show valid proof of training in aerial rescue, CPR, and First Aid (see application section).

⇨If you have been a participant of the ISA Chapter or International Tree Climbing Championships, you may waive the work climb portion of the skills exam for the ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist (CTW/CS) certification exam providing you satisfy all of the other requirements. (Form enclosed)

By submitting your application, you authorize ISA certification staff to contact the practical experience reference named on your application to substantiate your eligibility.

The ISA Certification Program does not discriminate in determining eligibility on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Recertification

The ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist credential is valid for three years. In order to maintain the certification at the end of that three-year period, you must have accumulated the necessary fifteen (15) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and pay the renewal fee. CEUs must relate to the domains on the exam.

Renewal dates always occur on June 30 or December 31, depending on the date you took your exam. You will be notified via mail one month before it is time to renew your certification. If you have an address change, please let us know to insure you receive your notice.

If you do not achieve the necessary number of CEUs and make your recertification payment, you will be required to retake the examination. You will need to pay the full fees required to take the examination. **You are responsible for keeping records of all CEUs sent to ISA. Please know that processing of CEUs takes 4-6 weeks once received in our office.**

Test Dates and Application Deadlines

The Tree Worker Knowledge Certification exam may be taken at ISA Chapter meetings and educational seminars or at the same time of the scheduled skills exam. For more information on location and dates of certification exams in your area, contact either your local ISA chapter or the ISA Certification Department. Exam dates also can be found in the ARBORIST NEWS, or by visiting the ISA Web site (http://www.isa-arbor.com).

Applications and proper payment must be received in the ISA office no later than **12 (twelve) working days** before a scheduled exam if you are taking the exam through an ISA chapter.
No exceptions.

CHAPTER SPONSORED EXAMS

Special Accommodations for Candidates with Disabilities

All test sites are accessible to all examinees. However, some individuals with disabilities may need special accommodations, such as extra time or assistance with writing or reading.

Oral exams are available by request. If you need such arrangements, please contact ISA before submitting your application. You will be informed how to proceed with your application submission. Arrangements, if approved by the certification staff, will be provided at no additional charge.

FEES

	ISA *and* Chapter Member	**ISA Member Only**	**Chapter Member Only**	**Nonmember**
Certification Exam Fee	$115 USD	$165 USD	$165 USD	$165 USD

To be eligible for the discount rate, you **MUST** be a current member of ISA **AND** a current member of an ISA chapter. Please note: ISA certification fees are separate and distinct from ISA and ISA chapter dues.

"Prices subject to change without notice."

AFTER APPLYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

After your application is received in the ISA office, you will receive a confirmation letter with the date and time of the exam, a tree list for the ID portion of the exam, directions to the exam site, and the name of the appropriate contact person.

If there is a problem with the application and/or fees, ISA certification staff will contact you. If the problem is **NOT** corrected, you will not be allowed to sit for the exam.

Rescheduling Exams

If circumstances change after you have applied for the examination, you must request in writing to have your exam rescheduled. If your request does not reach ISA headquarters before the exam deadline date, you will be considered a no-show. If the scheduled date was to be your free retake, it will be forfeited. Send your written request to the ISA certification staff before the 12-working-day deadline.

Refunds

ISA does not provide refunds for certification exam fees, nor do we permit the transfer of exam fees to other individuals. <u>No Exceptions.</u>

AT THE TESTING SITE

Admission for Testing

To be admitted for testing, you must arrive at the testing site on time and have your identity confirmed by presentation of an ID. The best ID is a government-issued ID such as a driver's license with photo, military photo ID, or a passport.

Testing Site Rules

• You should report to the testing site at least 30 minutes before the exam starting time. The exact reporting time, date, and location of the exam will be enclosed in your confirmation packet. You must be on time; the test administration will begin promptly.

• Dress appropriately. While every attempt is made to provide a comfortable atmosphere, heating or cooling may sometimes not function properly.

• You are permitted to use a calculator during the exam; however, it is not required. Only silent, nonprinting, battery- or solar-powered calculators without alpha characters will be allowed. Sharing of calculators is not permitted. All calculations can be completed without the use of a calculator.

• Books, papers, or other reference material must be placed on the floor or at the back of the room.

• No cell phone/pagers/PDAs allowed in testing room.

• Scratch paper will be provided on the back of the exam evaluation form. **DO NOT WRITE ON THE TEST BOOKLET.**

• No food or beverages may be taken into the testing room.

• No smoking will be allowed in the testing room.

• You may raise your hand if you have a question about the exam and the proctor will try to assist you.

• Visitors are not allowed in the testing room.

• You will be permitted to take restroom breaks on an individual basis.

• If you are caught looking at other individuals' exams or talking during the exam, scores may be invalidated or exam materials confiscated.

• It is of utmost importance that you carefully follow all directions and regulations. Listen carefully to all instructions given by the proctor and follow the directions completely.

Policy on Inappropriate Application and Examination Conduct

The International Society of Arboriculture intends that participation in ISA Certification Programs and examinations be a professionally relevant, informative, and rewarding experience for all candidates. All candidates for ISA certification are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner and to refrain from any objectionable, improper, or unprofessional conduct. To ensure fairness and a sound examination environment, the ISA Certification Board of Directors issues the following policy and rules.

When the ISA Certification Board, the ISA Certification Program, or an ISA-designated representative finds that a candidate has engaged in inappropriate conduct or behavior, ISA reserves the right to take responsive actions, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) reject an application for certification;

(2) prohibit or preclude a person from participating in an examination; (3) prevent or preclude a person from participating during an examination, including the removal of a person from the testing site; (4) invalidate or nullify a person's examination and test results; and, (5) issue and enforce any other lesser response or action determined to be appropriate or necessary.

Inappropriate conduct or behavior includes, but is not limited to, misrepresentation; failure to disclose requested information; cheating; unauthorized possession, use, or distribution of copyrighted or legally protected material; verbal or physical disturbances of the examination or certification process; failure to pay test fees in a timely manner; and any other objectionable, improper, or unprofessional actions by a person participating in the ISA certification process.

By submitting an application for certification, each ISA certification candidate acknowledges that he or she understands and agrees to the terms of this policy.

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

Failure to Sit for Your Examination

If you do not sit for the examination, you will receive your application back with a letter from the Certification Department explaining how to sign up for another exam.

How Your Exam Is Scored

Answer sheets are electronically scanned and scored. The Certification Department understands the importance of your test results and uses many quality-control procedures, both computer and manual, during and after the scoring process to ensure the accuracy of score reports.

Your Score Report

Your individual score report will be mailed approximately four to six weeks after your test date. You must achieve an overall score of at least 70% on the knowledge exam. It will give your overall test score as well as each of the domain scores in percentages. Please remember that because each domain is weighted, the overall score is **NOT** the arithmetic average of the domain scores.

Examination Results

Your scores are strictly confidential. Therefore, results cannot be obtained over the phone, by fax, or via e-mail.

If you have questions concerning your test results, you should direct them in writing to the ISA Certification Program. However, because of the need to maintain test security, test booklets cannot be made available for review of the questions and answers, and the Certification Program does NOT provide a list of questions you answered incorrectly or correctly. The only information available regarding your performance on the test is provided on your score report.

Notification of Certification

Upon successful completion of the exam, ISA certification staff will send, along with the score report, a congratulatory letter, recertification information, a press release for your local paper, a certificate, hard-hat decal, advertising logo sheet, patch, and wallet ID card.

Re-Examination
If you do not pass the exam, you will receive your score sheet, a letter explaining the retake process, and a retake application. You may retake one time at no charge. If you fail to show, you will forfeit your free retake. There will then be a $75 USD fee per retake up to one year. After one year, you will be required to pay the full amount. You **MUST** file the retake form prior to the deadline date, to be scheduled for the next exam.

Certification Renewal

ISA Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist Certification is valid for three years. To retain certification after each three-year period, Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialists must recertify. The ISA Certification Program offers two methods of recertification. The first method is to retake and re-pass the certification exam. The second option is to accumulate at least 15 continuing education units (CEUs) over the three-year period **and** pay the recertification fee.

You will receive a more detailed explanation of CEUs when you receive your certification packet. You may also call the ISA certification staff if you need further clarification. If you have an address change it is your responsibility to contact ISA so your account will be updated.

You have the option of checking your CEUs on-line via the ISA website. To obtain a username, password and access to your CEU report please email us at cert@isa-arbor.com.

CEUs and proper payment must be received in the ISA office in a timely manner to allow 4-6 weeks for processing and posting to your account.

	ISA *and* Chapter Member	**ISA Member Only**	**Chapter Member Only**	**Nonmember**
Recertification Fee	$45 USD	$60 USD	$60 USD	$60 USD

SKILLS EXAM INFORMATION

Note: The CTW waiver can be substituted for the skills portion of the

Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist exam

IV. CERTIFIED TREE WORKER CLIMBING SKILLS TEST

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLIMBERS

A. **Introduction**

Purpose of the Test

The purpose of the tree climbing skills test is to assess the applicant's ability to demonstrate the fundamental skills necessary to perform as a competent tree climber. The primary emphasis throughout this test is safety.

Purpose of this Section
This section is designed to inform the Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist applicant of the requirements to pass the tree climbing skills test. It outlines, in detail, what the candidate needs to know and what skills must be demonstrated during the test.

B. **Preparation**
What to Wear to the Skills Test
Applicants should dress for working tree climbing. This includes wearing work pants and work boots that meet the safety requirements of that jurisdiction. Company uniforms are allowed, but not required. Applicants should also dress appropriately for the weather conditions.

What to Bring to the Skills Test
1. Photo Identification
2. Each climber candidate should bring a **full** set of climbing gear that meets all pertinent safety standards and is in good repair. This includes:
    a. Hard hat
    b. Safety glasses
    c. Work boots
    d. Climbing rope
    e. Climbing saddle (harness)
    f. Safety lanyard
    g. Handsaw and scabbard
    h. Approved snaps or carabiners

C. **The Skills Test**
Understanding the Evaluation Form
The evaluation form that is used to assess applicants' skills is designed to be as fair and objective as possible. Every attempt has been made to eliminate bias on the part of the evaluators. Every applicant will be judged by at least two trained evaluators. The skills to be demonstrated are outlined in specific task statements. Each task statement includes performance standards which indicate exactly what constitutes successful completion of the task.

Each evaluator judges the candidate's performance of the various tasks to be either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Candidates begin with five hundred (525) points. Points are deducted for each unsatisfactory performance of a task. The point deductions are proportional to the importance of the task. In order to pass the skills test, an applicant must have a minimum of four hundred (420) points.

Certain tasks, which have been determined to be critical skills to be competent as a tree climber, carry a point value of 106 points. That means that if a candidate fails to satisfactorily complete any of those tasks, he or she will fail the skills test. One example of a critical task is the ability to tie a climbers hitch (tautline hitch or Blake's hitch) successfully.

A sample evaluation form is included in the application. The point deductions for each unsatisfactory rating are also included.

General Safety Regulations

Applicants and evaluators are expected to comply with all relevant OSHA, ANSI and/or CSA (for Canada) safety standards that apply in that jurisdiction. The skills examination is designed to simulate actual working conditions. Equipment used by climbers must provide adequate protection for use in working conditions.

All personal protective and climbing equipment shall, at a minimum, satisfy OSHA and ANSI and/or CSA (for Canada) standards that apply in that jurisdiction. Rope snaps should be of the locking type. Carabiners used as part of the climber's primary fall protection system must meet the minimum standards of rope snaps, and be of a design such that they cannot unintentionally be opened during work operations. Failure to abide by these rules may result in the applicant's failure of the skills examination.

APPLICANTS THAT ARE IMPAIRED BY THE USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR ILLEGAL DRUGS, OR USE THEM AT THE EXAMINATION SITE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED FROM TAKING THE EXAMINATION.

Pre-climb Inspections

Each applicant must demonstrate a pre-climb inspection of his or her equipment. This includes a manual and visual inspection of the rope, safety lanyard, and climbing saddle for any defects that could pose a safety hazard. Defective equipment must not be used.

Applicants must tie an approved climbers' hitch (tautline hitch or Blake's hitch) successfully with a stopper knot in the tail of the rope.

Applicants are to bodythrust a few feet off of the ground and demonstrate an on-rope rest in the bodythrust position. This includes being tied-in with both feet on the tree and both hands free.

Applicants are to footlock a few feet off of the ground and demonstrate an on-rope rest in the secured footlock position. This includes being tied-in with both feet off the ground and hands off the rope.

Knot Tying

Applicants must demonstrate the tying of seven additional knots within a 1-minute per knot time limit. Four of these must be tied correctly to proceed to the main skills test. Each knot must be tied correctly on the first attempt in order to receive a satisfactory mark. Candidates must correctly dress and set each knot. When the candidate hands the knot to the evaluator it is considered to be an attempt. The following are the required knots:

1. Recognized friction hitch
2. Cow hitch or timber hitch
3. Buntline, anchor hitch, or double fishermans
4. Clove hitch or bowline
5. Ascending knot: Kleimheist or English Prussik
6. Midline knot: clove hitch or butterfly
7. Sheet bend

The point deduction for failure to tie each knot successfully is thirty (30) points. Candidates must have one or more points remaining to proceed to the main skills test.

Tree Climb

Each applicant must do a pre-climb inspection of the tree and site. The purpose of this is to check for the location of any electrical conductors, basal and structural tree hazards or safety risks, such as, but not limited to, signs of decay, broken or dead limbs, or weak crotches. Climbers should also describe to the evaluator the location of any obstructions or targets (Park benches, sidewalks, etc.) on the site near the tree.

Rope Throw

Applicants must install the climbing rope at a predetermined position (20-25' above the ground). The use of a throwline is permitted, but the climber must successfully install the climbing line. **Five attempts are the maximum permitted. If this task is not completed satisfactorily, in five attempts, the climber fails the exam.**

Secured Entry

The applicant's rope must be installed in a manner which will permit a secured entry into the tree. The method of secured entry is the bodythrust or secured footlock.

Advancing Rope

The applicant must advance the climbing rope to the final tie-in position. The climber may throw the rope as many times as necessary to complete this task. The use of a pole to reset the climbing line is permitted (see D. Rope Advancement). Climbers are also permitted to climb the tree using safety lanyards. Climbers should verbally identify potential hazards and safety problems, if present, to the evaluators.

Applicants must then ascend to the final, predetermined tie-in point using safe and accepted climbing techniques. All applicants must remain tied-in or secured at all times. If at any time the applicant is not safely secured, he/she will be asked to descend from the tree resulting in failure of the examination.

Tie-in

The applicant must tie in, in a safe and appropriate manner within the maximum time limit set for the skills test. This time limit must be determined in advance by the evaluators for tree, site, and conditions. The purpose is not to introduce an element of speed into the exam, but rather to eliminate any candidate who is clearly not competent or prepared. **Applicants should tie a figure-8 stopper knot in the running-end or tail end of the climbing rope**.

Work climb - Station 1

Applicants must climb to the first designated work station, demonstrating the controlled use of the climbing line. Applicants must never put themselves in a position in which they could fall (unchecked) more than 5 feet (1.5 meters). Applicants must be secured at all times and maintain balanced and a confident posture while they contact the flag or bell by hand.

Work climb - Station 2

Applicants must move to the second designated work station where they must contact the flag or bell with a pole saw or pole pruner. The pole saw must be requested and sent up from the ground. The pole should be used with both hands while contacting the target. Applicants must also demonstrate the safe setting of the pole in the tree before sending the pole back down safely. The controlled use of the rope while demonstrating balance and confident posture is required. If this is not demonstrated, fifteen (15) points may be deducted.

Descent

The applicant must ensure there is sufficient rope to reach the ground before demonstrating a safe, controlled descent. The rope should be free of tangles.

D. **Notification of Test Results**

Applicants will be notified by mail four to six weeks after their results have been returned to the ISA office. Results will not be given over the phone, via email, fax, or on the day of the exam.

E. **Sample Rating Form**

Included at the end of the application.

COPY OF SKILLS EVALUATION FORM ENCLOSED

Evaluator's Name: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

TREE CLIMBING SKILLS TEST EVALUATION FORM

A. PRE-CLIMB (STAGING AREA)

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	Pass	Fail
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT Climber brings required equipment and must meet standard.	Hardhat, safety glasses, work boots, climbing rope, handsaw and scabbard locking snaps or carabiners (must be double auto locking carabiners), safety lanyard(s). Equipment must be arborist grade and must satisfy all applicable OSHA, ANSI, or CSA standards. No points involved. **Must have all approved equipment to proceed.**		
PRE-CLIMB INSPECTION EQUIP. Climber demonstrates pre-climb inspection of equipment. Evaluator's comment: **"Please demonstrate inspection of equipment."**	Check entire rope and safety lanyard for defects. Check saddle for integrity of stitching, rivets, D-rings.		106/ Fail Exam
PROPER TIE-IN Climber demonstrated proper tie-in.	A Recognized Climber's hitch tied for ascent. If unsatisfactory, climber may not continue.		106/ Fail Exam
ON ROPE TEST Climber demonstrates on rope test for body thrust.	Tied in, feet on tree, hands off rope. Must be successful before continuing		106/ Fail Exam
ON ROPE TEST Climber demonstrates on rope test for secured footlock.	Tied in, feet off ground, hands off rope. Must be successful before continuing		106/ Fail Exam
KNOTS & HITCHES Climber demonstrates tying of the following seven knots.	Each knot must be tied correctly on first attempt for a satisfactory mark. Candidate must correctly dress and set each knot. Attempt = handed to evaluator Time limit on knots = 1 min. per knot	**S**	**U**
Recognized friction hitch			30
Cow hitch or Timber hitch			30
Buntline, anchor hitch, or double fishermans			30
Clove hitch or bowline			30
Sheet bend			30
Secured footlock ascending knot: Kleimheist or English Prussik			30
Midline knot: clove hitch or butterfly			30
	Points Deducted Section A:		

*** NOTE-MISS 3 KNOTS = FAIL**

Explanation of point deduction: _____

_____

_____

Please circle deductions under Fail/Unsatisfactory column.

Evaluator's Name: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

TREE CLIMBING SKILLS TEST EVALUATION FORM

B. ROPE THROW

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	S	U
TREE & SITE INSPECTION Climber inspects tree & site. Evaluator's comment: "**Please demonstrate inspection of the tree and site."**			
	Check for location of utilities and wires,		10
	in ground targets		10
	above ground targets		10
	tree structure/stability.		10
START TIMING	Time starts on first throw.	**Start time:**	
Climbing Line Installation Climber installs climbing rope at a pre-determined position. (20-25' above the ground)	Climbing rope must be installed in position to allow the climber to safely enter the tree. Five (5) attemps maximum. Throwline permitted.		106/ Fail Exam
	Points Deducted Section B:		

C. SECURED ENTRY

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	S	U
SECURED ENTRY INTO TREE Climber demonstrates secured entry into tree. Evaluator's comment: **"Please demonstrate entry using bodythrust or secured footlock."**	A Recognized Climber's hitch tied for ascent. If unsatisfactory, climber may not continue.		106/ Fail Exam
	Points Deducted Section C:		

D. ROPE ADVANCEMENT

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	S	U
TREE INSPECTION Climber demonstrates inspection of tree. Evaluator's comment: **"Please demonstrate inspection of tree".**	Verbally identify potential hazards (if any).		20
ASCEND TO FINAL, PRE-DETERMINED TIE-IN POINT Climber demonstrates ascent to final, pre-determined tie-in point.	Must be secured at all times. Use accepted and safe climbing techniques.		106/ Fail Exam
	The climber may throw rope as many times as necessary, may use pole to set rope, may climb using safety lanyard(s).		35
	Points Deducted Section D:		

Explanation of Point Deduction: _____

_____

_____

TOTAL points deducted this page: _____

Please circle deductions under Fail/Unsatisfactory column.

Evaluator's Name: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

TREE CLIMBING SKILLS TEST EVALUATION FORM

E. TIE-IN

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	S	U
FINAL TIE-IN Climber demonstrates final tie-in. Evaluator's comment: "Please demonstrate final tie-in".	Climber chooses technique. Remain tied in at all times either with lanyard, other end of climbing rope, or second climbing line. Tie in with recognized friction hitch and stopper knot.		35
	Climber must be secured at all times. Failure to do so will result in termination of the exam.		106/ Fail Exam
TYING A FIGURE-8 Climber demonstrates tying a figure 8 in running end.	Figure-8 stopper knot tied.		15
TIME LIMIT ON TYING IN Climber demonstrates tying the knot within maximum time allowed.	Maximum of 20 minutes to tie-in point. If greater than 20 minutes-Fail exam. (Deduct 101)		106/ Fail Exam
		Points Deducted Section E:	

F. WORK CLIMB STATION 1

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	S	U
1st DESIGNATED WORK STATION Climber demonstrates controlled use of climbing rope	Climber should never be in a position to fall (unchecked) greater than 5 feet (1.5 meters). If climber is in a position to fall, he/she should be informed immediately. A second offense will constitute failure.		20
	Climber should maintain balance confident posture.		10
HAND CONTACT OF BELL OR FLAG **Climber approaches bell or flag.**	Climber should be under control and balanced.		15
		Points Deducted Section F:	

Explanation of Point Deduction _____

_____

_____

TOTAL points deducted this page: _____

Please circle deductions under Fail/Unsatisfactory column.

Evaluator's Name: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

TREE CLIMBING SKILLS TEST EVALUATION FORM

G. WORK CLIMB - STATION 2

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	S	U
2nd DESIGNATED WORK STATION Climber demonstrates controlled use of climbing rope.	Climber should never be in a position to fall (unchecked) greater than 5 feet (1.5 meters). An uncontrolled swing or slip may lead to an unsatisfactory mark and may not constitute failure.		20
USE OF POLE SAW/PRUNER Climber must request pole be set up from ground. Climber demonstrates the use of a pole saw or pruner to reach flagged limb.	Climber should maintain balance & confident posture.		10
	Climber should be secured & balanced.		15
	Climber should use both hands on pole saw/pruner		10
	Pole saw/pruner safely replaced in tree.		10
	Pole saw/pruner safely lowered to ground w/ approved knot. Pole saw/pruner can't be dropped		10
	Points Deducted Section G:		

H. DESCENT

TASK	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	S	U
DESCEND TO GROUND Climber demonstrates sufficient length of rope to reach the ground.	Pull up running end of climbing rope.		15
	Climber should descend in a controlled manner at a safe speed without damaging rope.		10
	Evaluator: inspect rope for friction damage.		10
	Rope should be free of tangles.		10
	Climber should land in a controlled manner.		10
TOTAL TIMELIMIT	Must be completed in 30 minutes.		106/ Fail Exam
	Points Deducted Section H:		

Explanation of Point Deduction _____

_____

_____

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE =	**525**
LESS FINAL POINTS DEDUCTED =	
FINAL SCORE =	

Please circle deductions under Fail/Unsatisfactory column.

V. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING & SUBMITTING APPLICATION

1. Print your first name, your middle initial, and your last name.

   Note: For security reasons please list your name as it appears on your photo ID you will be bringing to the exam site.
2. Print your address. **The address you indicate will be used for all future correspondence by ISA.**
3. Print your phone number, cell/alternate number, fax number, and e-mail address.
4. Write the date of the desired scheduled knowledge exam. **Do not submit application without choosing an exam date. This will be left blank if you are testing via computer based.**
5. Write the location of the scheduled knowledge exam. (Chapter sponsored exams only)
6. Check back for computer based testing options in the near future.
7. Write the date of the scheduled skills exam.
8. Write the location of the scheduled skills exam.
9. Please check if you are including a CTW waiver form.
10. Check the box for the language in which you wish to take the test, English or Spanish.
11. Check the box if you do **NOT** want your listing to appear in Certified Arborists lists.

12A. Check yes if you are a member of ISA. It is important to write in your ISA member ID number.

12B. Check yes if you are a member of an ISA chapter. Be sure to write in the appropriate chapter.

   Note: You may check yes if you enclose an ISA membership application and all of the necessary fees for membership to ISA and the chapter.

13. **If you are requesting special accommodations, be sure to contact the Certification Department prior to submitting your application and before the exam deadline date.**
14. Complete all of the practical experience section, including employment dates. If this section is not completed correctly, your application will not be accepted.
15. Please complete the form and attach all necessary proof of training in CPR, first aid, and aerial rescue.
16. Include the appropriate fees with your application. **If you are applying for ISA and chapter membership, you may pay the member rate, but a membership application must accompany the certification application.** You may pay both fees with one check or credit card. The ISA certification fee is separate and distinct from ISA and ISA chapter dues.

Note: MasterCard/VISA/AmEx may be used to pay for membership and/or certification fees.

REQUIRED: Please sign and date the Certification Agreement.

If you have further questions while you are filling out the application, please contact the ISA Certification Department at (217) 355-9411.

If you desire further information on ISA or ISA certification, you may access the ISA website at www.isa-arbor.com

PLEASE ATTACH ALL DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR SUBMITTAL!

Thank You

CERTIFIED TREE WORKER/ CLIMBER SPECIALIST APPLICATION

This application must be received at least 12 WORKING DAYS prior to the date of the exam for which you are applying. If your application is approved, you should receive a confirmation letter. If you do not receive this letter, contact ISA at (217) 355-9411. Thank you for your consideration.

Note: For security reasons please list your name as it appears on your photo ID you will be bringing to the exam site.

❑Mr. ❑Ms. ❑Mrs. ❑Dr.

1. _____
PRINT FIRST NAME PRINT MIDDLE INITIAL PRINT LAST NAME JR SR I II III IV V

_____
COMPANY NAME (IF APPLICABLE)

2. _____
NUMBER AND STREET APT NO.

_____
CITY STATE (PROVIDENCE) POSTAL CODE

The address you indicate will be used for all future correspondence by ISA. In addition, you can elect to have this information published and distributed in ISA Certified Arborists lists.

3. Phone Number_____ _____
HOME BUSINESS

Fax Number _____ _____
CELL/ ALTERNATIVE #

E-mail Address_____

4. Date you wish take the Knowledge exam _____/_____/_____ (chapter sponsored exam)

5. Location _____ (chapter sponsored exam)
CITY STATE (PROVIDENCE) COUNTRY

6. Please check back, ISA will be offering the Knowledge exam via computer based in the near future.

7. Date you wish take the Skills exam _____/_____/_____

8. Location _____
CITY STATE (PROVIDENCE) COUNTRY

9. Will you be including the CTW waiver form? ❑ Yes ❑ No **(Form enclosed)**

Note: By submitting your application by the 12- working day deadline, does not guarantee you will be enrolled. Enrollment is based on experience and availability.

10. Language request ❑ English ❑ Spanish

11. Some Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialists do not wish their names to be distributed to the public or to other interested parties (vendors, potential employers, etc.). If you do **NOT** wish to have your name included in Certified Arborists lists for distribution, please indicate here. ❑

12A. Member of ISA ❑ Yes ❑ No I.D. #_____

12B. Member of ISA Chapter ❑ Yes ❑ No Chapter_____

13. Special accommodations must be approved by certification staff.

14. **Practical Experience** (this information is required for application approval)

Current or Most Recent Employer (Company) _____

Your position _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

His/ Her Title _____

Company Address _____
NUMBER AND STREET

_____
CITY STATE (PROVIDENCE) POSTAL CODE

Date of Employment _____ _____ _____
FROM MONTH YEAR FROM MONTH YEAR TOTAL TIME

Responsibilities of your position (this information is required for application approval)

_____
_____
_____
_____

Previous Employer (Company) _____

Your position _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

His/ Her Title _____

Company Address _____
NUMBER AND STREET

_____
CITY STATE (PROVIDENCE) POSTAL CODE

Date of Employment _____ _____ _____
FROM MONTH YEAR FROM MONTH YEAR TOTAL TIME

Responsibilities of your position (this information is required for application approval)

_____
_____
_____
_____

Previous Employer (Company) _____

Your position _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

His/ Her Title _____

Company Address _____
NUMBER AND STREET

_____
CITY STATE (PROVIDENCE) POSTAL CODE

Date of Employment _____ _____ _____
FROM MONTH YEAR FROM MONTH YEAR TOTAL TIME

Responsibilities of your position (this information is required for application approval)

_____

_____

_____

_____

If there is not enough space to list the required 18 month experience with your current and previous employers, please attach an additional sheet.

15. **Verification of CPR, First Aid and Aerial Rescue Training**

To be eligible to take the ISA Certified Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist Exam, the candidate must include proof of training in CPR, First Aid, and Aerial Rescue.

Proof of training in CPR can be any one of the following:
(Please check the appropriate item and include copy of card, certificate or verification)
_____A copy of a valid CPR card from the Red Cross or American Heart Association.
_____A certificate of completion in training of CPR. ISA reserves right to verify source of training.
_____Other – Please contact the ISA for approval
_____A written verification from employer – Please complete the information below.

I hereby certify that my employee _____ has completed training in CPR.

by: _____Supervisor/Manager/Owner (Please circle) Of:_____
(Company Name)
Date of completion of training: _____

Proof of training in first aid can be any one of the following:
(Please check the appropriate item)
_____A copy of a valid first aid card from the Red Cross.
_____A certificate of completion in first aid training. ISA reserves right to verify source of training.
_____Other – Please contact the ISA for approval.
_____A written verification from employer – Please complete the information below.

I hereby certify that my employee _____ has completed training in first aid.

by: _____Supervisor/Manager/Owner (Please circle) Of:_____
(Company Name)
Date of completion of training: _____

Proof of training in aerial rescue can be any one of the following:
(Please check the appropriate item)
_____A certificate of completion of the NAA EHAP program.
_____A certificate of completion in training in Aerial Rescue. ISA reserves right to verify source of training.
_____Other – Please contact the ISA for approval.
_____A written verification from employer – Please complete the information below.

I hereby certify that my employee _____ has completed training in aerial rescue.

by: _____Supervisor/Manager/Owner (Please circle) Of:_____
(Company Name)
Date of completion of training: _____

Please attach necessary documentation and proof.

13. **Fees**

❑ $115.00 USD – ISA and chapter member (Must be BOTH a member of ISA and a chapter)

❑ $165.00 USD– ISA member only, chapter member only, or nonmember

❑ $100.00 USD– Administrative fee for Computer Based testing (Required for computer based testing only)

$ _____ Total amount (fees) being paid

"Prices subject to change without notice."

Make check payable in U.S. funds to the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

If paying by ❑ VISA ❑ MasterCard ❑ AmEx

Name of Card Holder _____

Billing Address of Card Holder

_____
NUMBER AND STREET

_____
CITY STATE (PROVIDENCE) POSTAL CODE

Phone Number _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Only applications with Visa/ Mastercard/ AmEx may be faxed.
My employer is paying for my certification exam fees ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, my employer has reviewed my application and verifies all information given is correct. ❑

Employer Signature (if applicable) _____
I have completed both sides of the application:

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE YOUR APPLICATION AGREEMENT AT THE END
AND ATTACH ALL DOCUMENTATION!
REQUIRED FOR SUBMITTAL!
Thank You

ISA Certification Program
ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Program
Skills Exam Waiver Form

As a participant of the ISA Chapter or International Tree Climbing Championships, you may waive the work climb portion of the skills exam for the ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist (CTW/CS) certification exam providing you satisfy all of the other requirements.

Please contact ISA @ 217-355-9411 or download from web.

To obtain the waiver:

1. Successfully complete all events of the CTCC or ITCC.
2. Successfully tie the following knots within 1 minute each:
   a. Recognized friction hitch
   b. Cow hitch or timber hitch
   c. Buntline, anchor hitch, or double fishermans
   d. Clove hitch or bowline
   e. Sheet bend
   f. Secured footlock ascending: Kleimheist or English Prussik
   g. Midline knot: clove hitch or butterfly
3. Fill out the information below.
4. Have an approved CTW/CS Evaluator sign this form.
5. Submit this form with your application and payment when applying to take the CTW/CS examination.

(Please keep a copy for your records)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Tree Climbing Championship Location: _____

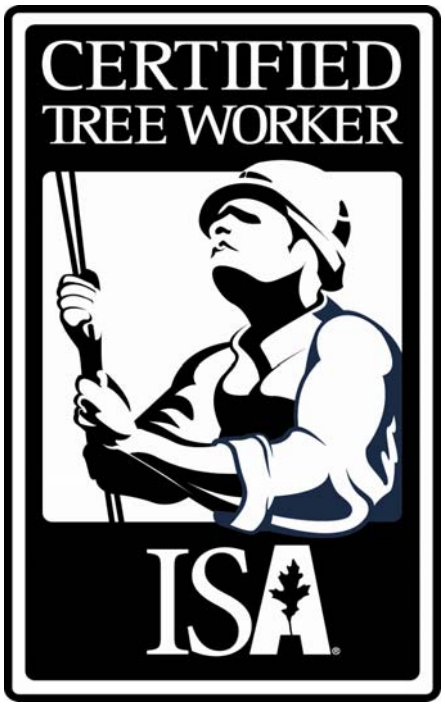
Date: _____ Chapter: _____

The individual above has successfully completed all events in the CTCC/ITCC &/or country/province/state events.

Name: _____
(please print)

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(ISA Certified Tree Worker Evaluator)



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

International Society of Arboriculture

The ISA membership mailing list will be made available to chapter and professional affiliations. Other "green" nonprofits and educational institutions may also request access to this list for a fee. May we include your name on this list? ❑ Yes ❑ No

G

Dues are for calendar year (January 1 through December 31) and not pro-rated for any portion thereof. Memberships are non-transferable and non-refundable.

Name (please print) _____ Title _____

Company _____

Street Address _____ ❑ Home ❑ Business

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Who is your employer:

Name _____ City _____ State/Province _____

Street _____

Please check this box if you want a printed version of the Membership Directory. ❑

Are you a(n) ...? (Check one)

- ❑ Consultant
- ❑ Crew Leader
- ❑ Designer/Planner
- ❑ Director/Vice President
- ❑ Extension Agent
- ❑ Foreman
- ❑ Groundworker
- ❑ Horticulturist
- ❑ Inspector
- ❑ Landscape/Architect
- ❑ Marketing/Sales Representative
- ❑ Other: _____
- ❑ Owner/President
- ❑ Professional/Licensed Arborist
- ❑ Professor/Teacher/Advisor
- ❑ Researcher/Scientist
- ❑ Superintendent
- ❑ Supervisor of 1 crew
- ❑ Supervisor of multiple crews
- ❑ Trainer
- ❑ Tree Worker/Climber

Signature _____

MEMBER CLASSIFICATION (Check one):

PROFESSIONAL:

Individuals .....$125 _____

To receive print subscriptions of ***ARBORIST NEWS* and *ARBORICULTURE & URBAN FORESTRY* add** .....$25 _____

SENIOR:

Retired and 10 years of ISA membership...$45 _____

Student membership is available. Contact ISA at membership@isa-arbor.com or (888) 472-8733.

OPTIONAL DUES

CHAPTER DUES
(optional; see below)..... _____

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION
(optional; see below)..... _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED in US Dollars ..... _____

ISA will forward Chapter and Professional Affiliation dues to the appropriate institutions.

Save $$$—apply on-line!

For Credit Card Payment: Complete information below and fax form to **(217) 239-5721**: Name on Card _____

❑ Visa ❑ Mastercard ❑ AMEX Card Number Exp. Date

CC Billing Address: Street City State/Province Postal/Zip Code

For Checks: Send completed form with your check (U.S. funds drawn on U.S. bank) to: **ISA, PO Box 3129, Champaign, IL 61826-3129.**

REGIONAL CHAPTERS (Check all that apply. Enter total on **"CHAPTER DUES"** line above.) **PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**

- ❑ Austria.....$45
- ❑ Atlantic.....$45 (*NB, NF, NS, PE-Canada*)
- ❑ Australia.....$95
- ❑ Brazil.....$32
- ❑ Czech Republic.....$33
- ❑ Denmark $81
- ❑ Dutch $50
- ❑ Florida.....$30
- ❑ Germany $85
- ❑ Illinois $45
- ❑ Indiana $40
- ❑ Italy $97
- ❑ Kentucky $35
- ❑ Michigan $75
- ❑ Mid-Atlantic+ .....$50 (*DC, MD, VA, WV*)
- ❑ Midwestern .....$30 (*IA, KS, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD*)
- ❑ Minnesota $40
- ❑ New England .....$35 (*CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT*)
- ❑ New Jersey.....$35
- ❑ New York.....$65
- ❑ New Zealand.....$110
- ❑ Norway.....$69
- ❑ Ohio $40
- ❑ Ontario $110
- ❑ Pacific Northwest+ .....$50 (*AK, BC, ID, OR, WA*)
- ❑ Pennsylvania-Delaware ...$45
- ❑ Prairie .....$75 (*AB, MB, SK-Canada*)
- ❑ Quebec.....$120
- ❑ Rocky Mountain .....$52 (*CO, MT, NM, WY*)
- ❑ Southern .....$30 (*AL, AR, GA, LA, MS, NC, PR, SC, TN, VI*)
- ❑ Spain.....$85
- ❑ Sweden $78
- ❑ Texas+.....$40
- ❑ United Kingdom $139
- ❑ Utah $40
- ❑ Western+ .....$40 (*AZ, CA, HI, NV*)
- ❑ Wisconsin $40

+Add $10 for Chapter-only memberships.

Non-US Chapter dues are quoted in approximate US Dollars.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (Check all that apply. Enter total on **"PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION"** line above.)

❑ Utility Arborist Association $25 ❑ Society of Commercial Arboriculture $35 ❑ Arboricultural Research and Education Academy $25

Society of Municipal Arborists (Check all that apply from below.)

❑ Professional $75 ❑ Corporate $140 (Additional Corp $25 ea.) ❑ Library $60 ❑ Senior $40 ❑ Student $40

Fax completed form to **217-239-5721**. FOR MORE INFORMATION **www.isa-arbor.com** or **217-355-9411**

CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT

For and in consideration of $115 for ISA/Chapter member (non-member fee $165) and the mutual covenants contained herein, the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) agrees that the undersigned applicant, upon receiving written notice of successful completion of the ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist examination, shall become certified under the ISA Professional Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Program as described in the ISA Professional Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Handbook attached hereto and made a part hereof, and applicant agrees that he/she has reviewed and understands the provisions of the Program, and further agrees to adhere to all the terms and provisions of this agreement and the Program procedures.

The applicant and ISA further agree that Certification under this Program is for an initial term of three years and may be renewed for additional terms upon: (1) accumulation of required Continuing Educational Credits, (2) payment of applicable recertification fees, as provided in the Program, and (3) execution of such recertification agreements and the fulfillment of such other requirements as may from time to time be required by the ISA under the Program.

Applicant understands that the ISA Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Program is totally separate from ISA membership and all other ISA programs, and that certification under this Program does not create in the certified party any ISA membership rights nor any rights in any other ISA program including but not limited to, the rights to use any other ISA mark. The applicant also agrees that he/she will immediately cease any use of ISA Tree Worker mark or other reference to the ISA Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Program upon notice from ISA that his/her rights have been revoked or suspended.

Applicant understands and agrees that the Certification will be personal to the Applicant and may not be transferred or assigned to any other individual or entity. Applicant agrees that use of the Certification and related mark by an employer must be in accordance with ISA Certification procedures and guidelines.
Applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless ISA, its Directors, Officers, Staff, Certification Program Board of Directors, agents and employers from and against all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of applicant's participation in the ISA Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Program and use of the ISA Tree Worker emblem or other reference to the ISA Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Program.

Applicant's Signature _____Date _____

Printed Name _____

International Society of Arboriculture
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Champaign, IL 61826-3129
phone (217) 355-9411
fax (217) 355-9516
cert@isa-arbor.com
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