

Guidelines for Certification Centres and Organisers of NTCC, ETCC and WTCC Events

To ensure consistent recognition of national and international tree climbing competitions within the recertification process for **European Tree Workers (ETW)**, the Certification and Quality Management (CQM) committee has agreed on the following rules and procedures:

Tree climbing competitions such as **NTCC** (National Tree Climbing Championship), **ETCC** (European Tree Climbing Championship), and **WTCC** (World Tree Climbing Championship) offer valuable learning opportunities. However, to maintain quality and fairness across the ETW recertification system, certification centres and competition organisers must follow the conditions outlined below.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ETW RECERTIFICATION:

Each ETW must provide:

- A total of **30 hours of training** within a 3-year period.
 - Minimum of **10 hours of practical training** (as part of the total required 30 hours).
 - Minimum of **20 hours of theoretical training** (as part of the same 30 hours).

RECOGNITION OF TREE CLIMBING COMPETITIONS:

The following activities may be counted toward the required 30 hours, taking into account that a maximum of 10 hours of **practical training** may be recognised within the 3-year recertification period:

1. Participation as a climber in NTCC/ETCC/WTCC

- Recognised as **5 hours of practical training** per event
- **May be counted up to a maximum of 10 hours in a 3-year recertification period**

2. Participation as a volunteer in NTCC/ETCC/WTCC (technical roles only)

- Recognised as **5 hours of practical training** per event
- **May be counted up to a maximum of 10 hours in a 3-year recertification period**

This system is intended to motivate participants and volunteers to take part in more than one competition within the 3-year period, while also simplifying verification for certification centres and organisers issuing or approving certificates.

If an individual participates in both roles (climber and technical volunteer) during a single or multiple events, the **combined total must not exceed the maximum of 10 hours of practical training** allowed for recertification.

IMPORTANT FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Only technical tasks related to the preparation and execution of the competition may be recognised. Examples of eligible roles include:

- Rope setting
- Judging
- Timekeeping
- Equipment control
- Safety monitoring

Non-technical support tasks such as catering, logistics, tent setup, or site maintenance (e.g. mowing grass) do not qualify.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION:

To validate recertification hours, organisers must issue a certificate of participation for each climber and volunteer. This certificate must include:

- Name and date of the event.
- Name of the participant.
- Role of the participant:
 - For climbers: **"Participant – competitor"**
 - For volunteers: **A clear description of the technical role performed**
- **Number of hours granted** (e.g. 5 hours).

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

If a separate training course, workshop, or seminar is organised as part of or directly following the event, its full duration may be recognised separately as part of the 30 hours – regardless of participation in the competition itself.

These guidelines must be communicated clearly to all event organisers and ETW candidates. Certification centres are responsible for ensuring that only activities meeting these standards are submitted and approved as valid training hours.

For questions or clarifications, please contact the EAC Office (office@eac-arboriculture.com) or the CQM committee (cqm@eac-arboriculture.com) directly.