



APPROVED CONTRACTOR PROGRAMME (ACP)

PRE- APPROVAL GUIDE

NEW ZEALAND ARBORICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION INC.

JANURARY 2020
VERSION 5



Owned and administered by the
New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb)

**NEW ZEALAND ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC. (NZ Arb)
APPROVED CONTRACTOR PROGRAMME (ACP)**

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PRE-APPROVAL GUIDE

July 2018 Version 4

All correspondence should be directed to:
The Approved Contractor Programme Coordinator



New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc.
PO Box 1193, Nelson 7040



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www.NZArb.org.nz

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FOREWORD

HISTORY OF THE APPROVED CONTRACTOR PROGRAMME

The Approved Contractor Programme was established by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association in 1993. By 1996 there were four contractors on the register.

THE INTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT

It is intended that the *NZ Arb Pre-Approval Guide* be a living document, reviewed and updated as required. *The Pre-Approval Guide* will be made available on the NZ Arb website: <http://nzarb.org.nz>

SUBMISSIONS TO THIS DOCUMENT

If you would like to make a submission or comment on the content of this document, or you would like to suggest additional amendments to NZ Arb please make these in writing to;

📍 **The New Zealand Arboricultural Association P.O. Box 1193, Nelson
7040, New Zealand.**

✉ **administrator@nzarb.org.nz**

Correspondence should be headed; Submissions to the Approved Contractor Programme (Pre Approval Guide) and include your name and contact details. Please use the section numbers to identify where your submission relates to or where your submission should be included.

This is Version 4.0 of the New Zealand Arboricultural Industry 'Approved Contractor Programme' published by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc.

The Approved Contractor Programme is available to all arboricultural contracting companies in New Zealand. The assessment criteria are sufficiently flexible to apply to both large and small arboricultural businesses.

The Approved Contractor Programme aims to be continuously reviewed, improved and upgraded, and invites the assistance and advice of individuals and organisations engaged in the New Zealand tree care industry.

This version is based on the principles of the previous versions of this programme; however, the criteria have been amended to be more responsive to advances in the tree care industry and to meet current legislative requirements. NZ Arboricultural Association Approved Contractors will be expected to keep abreast of current best practice, technological advances and legislative requirements.

This is a live document which we endeavour to keep updated as the programme evolves. To make a submission on amendments to the programme contact the ACP coordinator at (administrator@nzarb.org.nz).

Approved Contractor **PROGRAMME REVIEW**



WHAT IS AN APPROVED CONTRACTOR?

- 1.1** An Approved Contractor is an arboricultural contracting business that has met, and is required to maintain, a minimum standard of professional knowledge and practical ability at the level of client service that is required in this Approved Contractor Programme Pre-Approval Guide.
- 1.2** The purpose of the Approved Contractor Programme is to establish and maintain a high level of public confidence in the arboricultural industry. A list of Approved Contractors, with trading name, address, contact numbers and the expiry date of their Approved Contractor status is recorded on an Approved Contractor register. This register is distributed to local and regional authorities, displayed on the NZ Arb website and published in the industry magazine (Tree Matters).
- 1.3** There is no ranking conferred within the Approved Contractor Register.
- 1.4** Approved contractor status is valid for a period of up to five years. The association will conduct an audit of each Approved Contractor during the third year of the approved period. Upon expiry of the approval period each Approved Contractor can apply for a further term. The aim of the five-year cycle is to ensure that Approved Contractors continue to maintain and improve their standards and work methodology.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION IN PROMOTING THE APPROVED CONTRACTOR PROGRAMME

To improve and foster the professional development of industry members.

Mission **STATEMENT**

**TO ENCOURAGE, FOSTER, IMPROVE AND
EDUCATE IN ALL ASPECTS OF
ARBORICULTURE IN NEW ZEALAND.**

- 2.1** To encourage continuity and excellence in the arboricultural contracting industry throughout New Zealand.
- 2.2** To promote a consistently high standard of arboricultural advice and workmanship to the customer.
- 2.3** To make the Approved Contractor Programme available to all arboricultural contractors in New Zealand.
- 2.4** To increase public awareness of the importance of appropriate tree care.
- 2.5** To maintain this accreditation programme that allows arboricultural contractors to develop individually within the standards required by the association.

Benefits for the
APPROVED CONTRACTOR



The association will:

- 3.1** Acknowledge and promote the listed Approved Contractors as providers of a service that is professionally recognised and industry based.
- 3.2** Inform the public about the Approved Contractor Programme, and the benefits of using an Approved Contractor.
- 3.3** Provide a list of Approved Contractors to local, regional and government organisations, other relevant organisations, display the Approved Contractor list on the association website and publish this list in the industry magazine (Tree Matters) and other related industry organisations and publications, as appropriate.
- 3.4** Allow all Approved Contractors the exclusive use of the NZ Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor Logo in advertising and promotional material in line with our NZ Arb branding guidelines here.
- 3.5** Provide monitoring of contractors on the Approved Contractor list as a means of maintaining quality control and the integrity of the Approved Contractor Programme.

Section FOUR

Requirements to become **AN APPROVED CONTRACTOR**



4.1 APPLICANT'S QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE

An applicant must have qualifying experience as follows:

EITHER

- The applying company has a recognised arboricultural qualification (equivalent to NZQA Level 4 advanced certificate) and has been continuously operating as an arboricultural contracting business for a minimum of three years;

OR

- The applicant has been operating an arboricultural contracting business for a minimum of five years, whether having completed any formal qualifications or not;

OR

- The equivalent experience or qualifications can be demonstrated by the applicant.



4.2 STAFF QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE

To be eligible and maintain Approved Contractor status, where the company principal is not present on the work site, each arboricultural contracting crew must have qualifying experience as follows:-

- A recognised arboricultural qualification (equivalent to NZQA level 4 advanced certificate) and has been continuously working as an arboricultural contractor for a minimum of two years post qualification.
- Or five years continuous experience

In addition to the above requirements, an applicant must satisfy the appointed ACP assessors that the following is provided:



4.3 CLIENT SERVICE

Advertising and marketing shall be accurate and of a professional nature. The applicant shall demonstrate a systematic approach to the handling of clients, from initial enquiry to job completion. These areas shall include:

- **Job tracking**
- **Record-keeping**
- **Contract management**
- **Recording of customer feedback**
- **Public liability / Professional indemnity insurance company history**



4.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The applicant must have documented policies and procedures for managing health and safety in the workplace. The applicant shall provide evidence detailing the handling of policy and procedures that shall include but not be limited to:

- **Current Worksite Health & Safety Policy**
- **Pre-start hazard ID and recording**
- **Staff PPE provided / recorded / maintained**
- **Accident reporting and recording**
- **Equipment inspections**
- **First Aid Certification / depot first aid kit**
- **Staff training / warranting records**
- **Emergency procedures / contact numbers**
- **Traffic Management Procedures (TMP)**
- **Utility line clearance written procedures**
- **A drug and alcohol policy**



4.5 ARBORICULTURAL STANDARDS

All work performed by the applicant shall be of a quality no less than that prescribed or detailed in relevant and commonly accepted best practice guidelines and arboricultural standards as currently acknowledged by the NZ Arboricultural Association and International Society of Arboriculture.

Examples of completed works and current work in progress shall be evaluated.



4.6 CODES OF PRACTICE, RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The applicant shall observe, hold copies and adhere to all applicable *Codes of Practice* that relate to the type of work and equipment used by the applicant, as set down by the WorkSafe. All work performed by the applicant shall be of an acceptable standard.

Examples of completed works and current work in progress shall be evaluated.

The applicant must demonstrate familiarity and compliance with any local Government Authority requirements, including district and regional plans and National legislation that are relevant to day-to-day arboricultural operations in the area(s) in which the business conducts its work.



4.7 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The applicant shall ensure that plant and equipment owned and operated are safe, suitable and used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. All physical resources shall be compliant with all applicable industry codes of practice and shall all be warrantable for use on the road, holding all applicable certificates and/or warrants of fitness and be fit for purpose.



4.8 HUMAN RESOURCE ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The applicant shall demonstrate competent organisation and management of human resources. For example, keep documentation and records of training in line with Section 4.7 of appendix 5. This list shall be provided, but is not exhaustive.



4.9 CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The applicant shall demonstrate continuous improvements of business quality and professional development in keeping with modern trends, methods and techniques of the arboricultural industry.



4.10 PUBLIC LIABILITY / PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

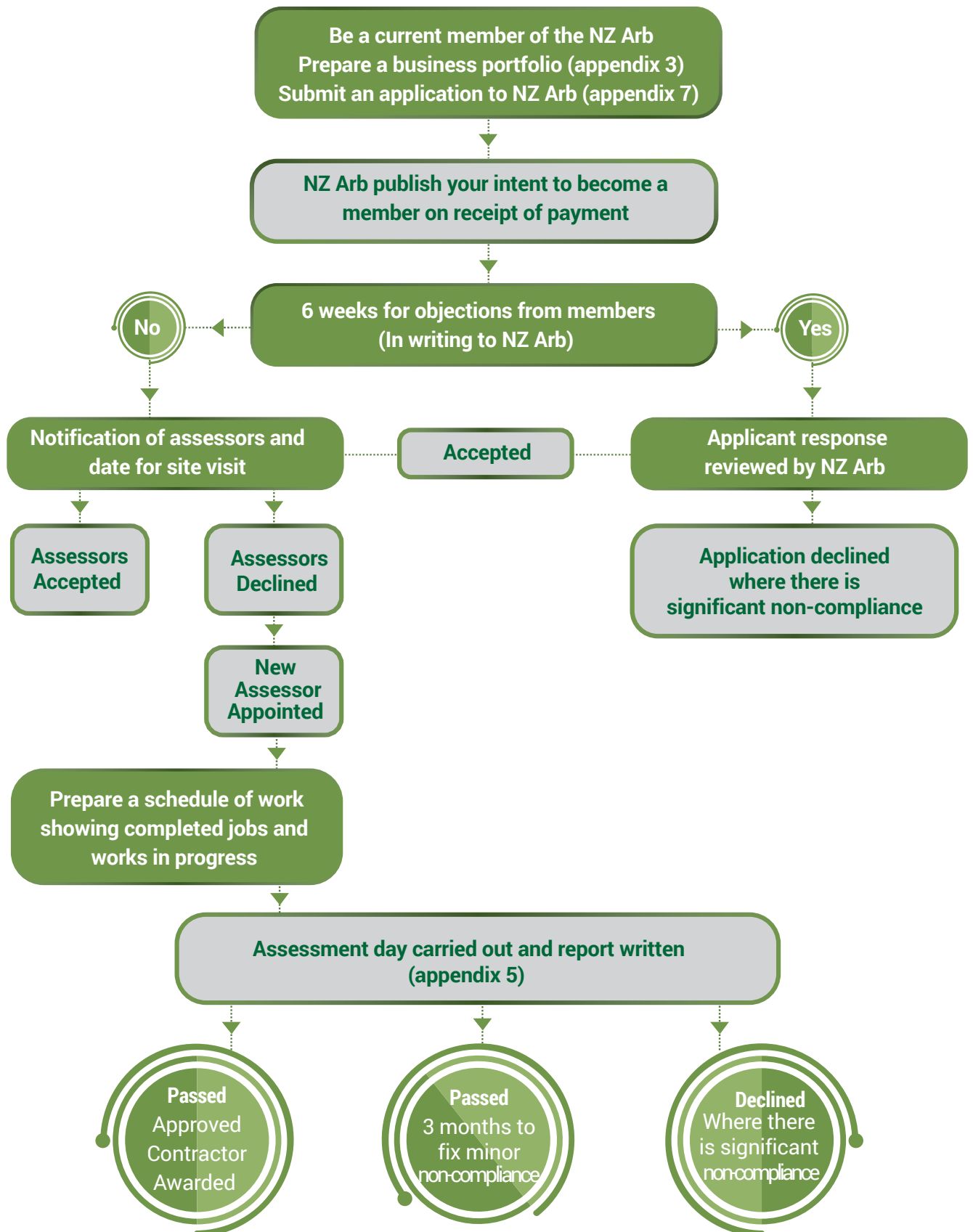
All applicants shall hold adequate public liability and professional indemnity insurance to cover them and their customers for any situation or circumstances that may arise from the services they perform.



4.11 DEPOTS

Where applicants have multiple depots, the approval status shall apply only to the individual depot assessed and approved at the time of the ACP audit.

STEPS TO BECOME AN APPROVED CONTRACTOR



THE APPROVED CONTRACTOR PROGRAMME ASSESSOR

- 6.1 The ACP Committee shall appoint an impartial assessor/s to each application for Approved Contractor status.
- 6.2 The applicant has the right to appeal the initially appointed assessor in writing with valid reasons to the ACP committee. One change of assessor may be acceptable if the ACP committee feel the appeal is justified. Any additional costs incurred shall be agreed upon by the ACP committee and the applicant prior to a new assessor being appointed.
- 6.3 The primary role of the assessor is to assess the applicant's ability to meet the criteria required by the programme.
- 6.4 The applicant has the right to expect that his/her assessment and any documentation provided will be treated confidentially, and used solely for the purpose of the accreditation process.
- 6.5 The assessor will provide a copy of the assessment report to the applicant following the assessment, together with any recommendations.
- 6.6 In the event of a dispute, the applicant may appeal to the ACP Committee.
- 6.7 The decision of the Association Executive Committee is final.

THE ASSESSMENT AUDIT



- 7.1** The assessor, having viewed the submitted business portfolio, also requires evidence of the criteria prescribed in Section Four (appendices 3 and 5).
- 7.2** The applicant will submit examples of current and previous tree work that demonstrate the range of arboricultural services indicated on the application. The assessor and applicant will view these examples as part of the onsite assessment. Photographic evidence shall be provided by the applicant as a means of demonstrating the 'before and after condition' and the techniques used in the examples of previous work. See appendix 5 for breakdown of techniques required for assessment.
- 7.3** The applicant shall demonstrate their arboricultural abilities, safe tree work practices and procedures with examples of work in progress. Such work shall be organised and undertaken by the applicant, and/or by the applicant's staff. The range of procedures that need to be demonstrated are listed in the assessment checklist in appendix 5 of the ACP Guide.

CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE ASSESSMENT

- 8.1** The applicant has the right to cancel the assessment at any stage.
- 8.2** Application fees, minus any administration costs, will be refunded if the applicant cancels at least one calendar month before the scheduled assessment date.
- 8.3** A partial refund of fees may be paid if cancellation by the applicant occurs within one calendar month before the assessment date.
- 8.4** Cancellation of the assessment may be made by the ACP Committee at any point up to and including the assessment date, if the applicant:
- a) Exhibits conduct which, in the opinion of the association and the appointed assessor, may bring the association or the standing of the Approved Contractor Programme into disrepute;
 - b) Carries out recent work that is, in the opinion of the ACP committee and the appointed assessor, of an unacceptable standard.
- 8.5** A refund of the assessment fee, minus any administration costs, shall be at the discretion of the ACP committee.
- 8.6** The application will lapse if the assessment and audit are not completed within one calendar year after publication of the notice of intent, and after six months where an audit requires re-assessment in areas of minor non-compliance. Failure by the applicant to meet these requirements will result in total loss of fees and render the application void.
- 8.7** Postponement of 'work in progress' due to extenuating circumstances, such as extreme weather events, will be agreed between the applicant and the assessor on the assessment day. The assessment may be rescheduled for a mutually agreed date. The ACP will consider reasonable circumstances which may arise on a case-by-case basis.
- 8.8** Postponement of the assessment by the assessor shall not incur additional fees for the applicant.

AUDITING

- 9.1** A midterm audit of all Approved Contractors shall be conducted during the Approved Contractor status period.
- 9.2** The Approved Contractor will be notified in writing prior to the midterm review. The cost of the midterm audits shall be met by the Approved Contractor (see fee schedule - Section Thirteen).
- 9.3** Additional audits may be conducted at any time by the Approved Contractors committee during the Approved Contractor status period. NZ Arb reserve the right to carry out further audits and request documentation to ensure continued compliance status.

RENEWAL OF APPROVED CONTRACTOR STATUS

- 10.1** Notice of the requirement to renew current Approved Contractor status will be given in writing six months prior to the end of the five-year Approved Contractor period.
- 10.2** Renewal of Approved Contractor status must be applied for at least 90 working days prior to the end of the five-year Approved Contractor period.
- 10.3** An assessment for renewal should be carried out prior to expiration of the five-year period, otherwise the ACP status is deemed to have expired. The intention will be that the audit be conducted within 90 days

Loss of Approved **CONTRACTOR STATUS**

An Approved Contractor may be suspended or may lose Approved Contractor status on the following grounds:

- 11.1** A breach of the code of conduct of the association.
- 11.2** Any conduct which, in the opinion of the executive of the association may bring the association or the standing of the Approved Contractor Programme into disrepute.
- 11.3** Failure to comply with or to maintain the criteria as set out in Section Four of the Approved Contractor Programme Approval Guide.
- 11.4** Approved Contractor status will be withdrawn if an Approved Contractor has not been actively engaged in the arboricultural industry for a period of more than one calendar year.
- 11.5** Failure to maintain experienced or qualified staffing levels to the standard of the performance criteria of the Approved Contractor Programme.
- 11.6** Failure to pay the annual Approved Contractor Programme fee.
- 11.7** Failure to comply with all relevant legislation as outlined in Section Four.

TRANSFERRAL OF APPROVED CONTRACTOR STATUS / SALE OF AN APPROVED CONTRACTOR BUSINESS

It is the responsibility of the new owner to advise NZ Arb of the sale of the business

- 12.1** The Approved Contractor shall notify NZ Arb or the ACP committee chairman when the business is sold to a third party.
- 12.2** Programme Approved Contractor status shall not be transferred without the written consent of the NZ Arb executive committee. The association maintains the right to impose conditions of consent on any transferral of Approved Contractor status.
- 12.3** The association retains the right to reassess Approved Contractor status in the event of a change in management or the sale of an Approved Contractor business. Failure to comply under the ACP will result in the loss of this status.
- 12.4** The cost incurred in the transferral of Approved Contractor Status shall be the responsibility of the new owner or manager

THE APPROVED CONTRACTOR FEE SCHEDULE

The cost to applicants seeking to become Approved Contractors is outlined below. Some fees are fixed, with other costs varying depending on the location of the applicant and the size of the business being assessed. All fees are GST exclusive.

- 13.1** Base assessment fee \$1,500.00 exclusive of GST. This fee covers the cost of the appointed assessor's time to review the portfolio, visit the applicant's depot and worksites to conduct the assessment, and to prepare a report. It is anticipated that the depot and worksite visits to assess tree planting, pruning and removal can be completed in one day. Also included are association administration and general costs. Assessor's time to resolve minor non-compliance issues identified during the assessment are also included but assessor's return visits to the worksite may incur additional fees.
- 13.2** Where the applicant provides 'additional services' e.g. Utility Arboriculture listed in appendix 8, further assessment time may be required. Depot and worksite visits additional to the first day will incur a fee of \$500 exclusive of GST per half day.
- 13.3** Travel costs, overnight accommodation plus fair and reasonable sundry expenses for an out-of-town assessor, if chosen by the applicant, is not included in the base fee and shall be at the expense of the applicant.
- 13.4** A repeat visit by the assessor, if deemed necessary where non-compliance issues are identified, is not included in the base fee and shall be at the expense of the applicant.
- 13.5** Re-assessment fees – variable cost depending on circumstances. Extra costs may result if major non-compliance issues are identified.
- 13.6** Five-yearly renewal fee \$1,500.00 exclusive of GST (variable cost, depending on circumstances). This fee is for existing Approved Contractors re-applying to maintain their Approved Contractor status, as outlined in Section Ten of this guide. Included in this fee is the cost of an assessor to review current performance criteria of the applicant to ensure that these comply with those outlined in the ACP Approval Guide.

- 13.7** Annual ACP fee - \$950.00 exclusive of GST (fixed cost), includes NZ Arb Association sustaining membership. This fee contributes to administration of the programme and advertising and promotion of the Approved Contractor Programme in related industry publications and to councils around New Zealand. Consumers will be encouraged to contact an Approved Contractor in their area.
- 13.8** Midterm audit fee - \$700.00 exclusive of GST (variable cost). Section Nine of this ACP Approval Guide outlines the requirement for an audit to be undertaken in the third year of the five-year approval period. Included in this fee is the cost of an ACP assessor to review current standards of the contractor in order to ensure they comply with the requirements outlined in the ACP Approval Guide.
- 13.9** Transfer fee – Variable cost depending on circumstances. To be established upon application. Section Twelve of the ACP Approval Guide outlines requirements for new owners taking ownership of a business that is currently an Approved Contractor. The ACP Committee reserves the right to carry out an audit for which any subsequent cost will be the responsibility of the new owner.
- 13.10** The association reserves the right to adjust the fee schedule at any time.
- 13.11** The association reserves the right to charge a fee to the Approved Contractor to investigate a dispute by a customer (maximum fee \$1,200.00 exclusive of GST).
- 13.12** All fees plus GST are payable prior to publication of notice of intent, appointment of assessors, any depot and site audits being scheduled, or approval of ACP transfers.

RULES FOR APPROVED CONTRACTORS

- 14.1** Approved contractors shall indemnify the NZ Arboricultural Association and the ACP committee from any liability that may result from the services they perform.
- 14.2** Being an Approved Contractor does not confer any ranking on the Approved Contractor register.
- 14.3** By signing and applying for assessment under the Approved Contractor Programme, and by accepting Approved Contractor status, the contractor agrees to all terms and items within this guide (specific document version at time of approval).
- 14.4** Approved Contractors shall keep up to date with any changes to the ACP programme. An up-to-date version of the ACP approval guide will be kept on the NZ Arb website and the current document issued with annual payment of membership.

ADVERTISING APPROVED CONTRACTOR STATUS

- 15.1** Contractors who have been awarded Approved Contractor status have the right to promote their status in accordance with branding guidelines
- 15.2** Any contractor who needs clarification of the terms and conditions of advertising should refer to the NZ Arb branding guidelines.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- 16.1** In seeking Approved Contractor status, the applicant is allowing their business systems and services to be reviewed by a mutually agreed-upon industry peer (the appointed assessor).
- 16.2** NZ Arb ensures that all involved with the Approved Contractor programme shall respect business and individual confidentiality.
- 16.3** In the case of disputes, the matter shall be heard in a confidential forum by the executive committee of the NZ Arboricultural Association.
- 16.4** The executive officers of the NZ Arboricultural Association, ACP committee and assessors shall respect the issue of confidentiality at all times. See 16.2 above.
- 16.5** Prior to the commencement of an assessment, both the applicant and the assessor are required to complete and sign a confidentiality statement (see appendix 2).
- 16.6** Information and records held about this programme will be available only to the NZ Arb executive committee, the ACP committee and the ACP assessors assigned to each application. Hard copies of documentation provided will be initialled and returned to the applicant within 20 working days. Electronic copies shall be held in NZ Arb's password-protected document management system.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

ACP	Approved Contractor Programme
ACP Approval Guide	This publication, or any subsequent amendments
ACP Committee	A committee made up of a minimum of three persons and maximum of five. The ACP Committee shall be made up of at least one current association executive committee member, one industry representative and at least one current Approved Contractor in good standing.
ACP Coordinator	A member of the ACP committee whose responsibility is to administer and oversee the ACP processes.
Applicant	The applicant is the principal of the enterprise applying for Approved Contractor status. This can include an independent owner /operator or the depot manager where the arboricultural firm is part of a wider business entity. Where a contractor has multiple depots, the applicant is the depot manager of the operation for that geographic region and must meet the requirements of Section 4.1 of this guide to be eligible for Approved Contractor status.
Approved Contractor Status	Accreditation given by the NZ Arboricultural Association to a contractor who meets and maintains the criteria and requirements as prescribed in the ACP Pre-Approval Guide. Where companies have multiple depots, the approval status shall apply only to the individual depot assessed and approved.
Approved Contractor Register	A record of all the current Approved Contractors, stating their full name, trading name and addresses, phone numbers and the expiry date of their Approved Contractor status.
Assessor	An appointed person who has been engaged to carry out assessments of ACP applications.

Assessment Audit Date	The day on which the depot and crew examinations take place.
Assessment Report	A report completed by the assessor following the assessment to provide comments to the applicant.
Confidentiality Statement	A written statement completed by the assessor and the applicant to ensure non-disclosure of sensitive information
Foreman	Site foreman may also be referred to as crew leader and is that person who is in charge of the onsite operations.
Human Resources	Staff, employees (full and part-time), contractors and/or sub-contractors employed by the applicant.
Notification of Intent	Notification to the association membership of the intent by an applicant to apply for Approved Contractor status. This shall be by way of publishing on the association website and in Tree Matters magazine and association newsletters.
NZ Arb	New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc.
Plant	Any equipment and machinery used in the day-to-day operations.
Physical Resources	Any plant, buildings and land.
Previous Work	Work carried out by the applicant within one calendar year before the date that the applicant registers their intent to apply for Approved Contractor status.
Training	Shall be taken to mean any documented training or course of study designed to advance arboricultural knowledge.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

An assessor for the New Zealand Arboricultural Association's Approved Contractor Programme is required to access information that is commonly regarded as confidential to the applicant. This includes financial and client records.

In signing a contract to act as an assessor for the association's ACP, the assessor agrees to respect the applicant's confidentiality.

Furthermore, documentation submitted by the applicant and the assessment report completed by the assessor shall be viewed only by the applicant, ACP co-ordinator and committee. The content of all material shall be regarded as confidential.

Prior to commencing an assessment, the appointed assessor and the applicant are asked to complete the following statement:

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

With regard to this assessment visit undertaken at _____,
it is understood by the assessor and the applicant that the documentation sighted and verbal responses to questions will be considered as confidential, respecting that the assessor must complete a report for the association which is a true reflection of the findings established during the visit

Signed: _____ (Assessor)

Signed: _____ (Assessor)

Signed: _____ (Applicant)

Of: _____ (Trading Name)

On: _____ (Date)

This statement is to be completed in duplicate. One copy is to remain with the applicant. The second copy is to be returned by the assessor to the ACP coordinator.

BUSINESS ATTRIBUTES PORTFOLIO

INTRODUCTION

The applicant shall prepare a business attributes package and profile to submit with their application for assessment (three hard copies and one digital copy). The information submitted by the applicant is to give the assessor a clear understanding of the applicant's business prior to a physical visit. If the assessor feels the applicant is not ready for assessment, then more information may be requested. The following is a guide outlining the scope of this company profile.

The applicant's business attributes should include, but not be limited to:

1. CLIENT SERVICE

- a. Job tracking / record-keeping
- b. Quotations – clear and reasonable
- c. Contract management
- d. Customer feedback recording
- e. Public liability / Professional indemnity
- f. Company history

2. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- a. Job tracking / record-keeping
- a. Current Worksite Health and Safety Policy
- b. Pre-start hazard ID and recording
- c. Staff PPE provided, recorded and maintained
- d. Accident and incident reporting
- e. Equipment inspection records
- f. First aid certification / depot first aid kits
- g. Staff training / warranting records
- h. Emergency procedures / contact numbers
- i. Traffic management procedures
- j. Drug & Alcohol Policy

3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION / CODES OF PRACTICE

- a. Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- b. Resource Management Act 1991
- c. Property Law Act 2007
- d. CoPTTM (Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management)
- e. Electricity (Hazards From Trees) Regulations 2003
- f. CoP Arboriculture Part 1, 2 & 3
- g. Regional / Local District Plan Tree Rules
- h. Local Authority Tree Policies and Strategies
- i. Approved CoP for EWP and Cranes (March 2001)
- j. National, Regional and Local Plant Pest Lists

4. PLANT AND RESOURCES – VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

- a. Specialist tools and equipment storage
- b. All vehicles displaying current certificate / WoF
- c. Professional presentation and roadworthiness
- d. First aid kit / emergency procedure in all vehicles
- e. Motor vehicle insurance / public liability
- f. Yard and workshop – secure, safe, tidy

5. HUMAN RESOURCES

(including qualifying criteria set out in Section Four of the ACP Approval Guide)

- a. CV – qualifications / skills of principal and staff
- b. Accurate and up-to-date staff training records
- c. Induction / safety systems for new staff
- d. Written employment contracts / job descriptions
- e. Staff performance appraisals
- f. On-going training / quality improvement
- g. Crew adequately trained / equipped for the job

Applicants need to submit a pictorial portfolio of completed works showing the range of services being assessed.

Assistance in the preparation of this attributes package and the assessment of an applicant's business can be sought from the ACP co-ordinator, the association, an Approved Contractor Assessor or an external contractor.

THE NEW ZEALAND ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC CODE OF CONDUCT

This code shall apply to all members of the association professionally concerned with arboriculture, including students and honorary members. The underlying principle is that public confidence in the service provided by the association shall be enhanced and that no members shall conduct themselves in such a way that the member, the association or the profession is brought into disrepute.

1. A member shall perform only those services that are within the member's competence to perform.
2. Every member shall uphold the dignity of the industry and the association and its other members. Every member shall strive to add to the increasing knowledge in arboriculture and to related topics for the benefit of the association.
3. A member will conduct all matters relating to technical arboricultural activities, business operation and civic responsibilities in a manner that will uphold the status of the arboricultural industry.
4. A member shall duly acknowledge assistance from other members.
5. A member will further the interests of arboriculture by the interchange of information and experience with other arborists, and will actively contribute to the work of arboricultural associations, schools of instruction and publications.
6. A member will strive for increasing knowledge of arboriculture, and will be instrumental in research and field tests of new equipment and tree maintenance techniques where feasible and appropriate.
7. Member arborists employed in public businesses shall, when contracting with other arborists, exercise fairness and impartiality.
8. A member will, when serving as an expert witness on any matter relating to arboriculture, base all testimony on an adequate knowledge of the subject and facts which can be substantiated, and render an opinion according to his or her honest convictions.

APPENDIX 5

ASSESSMENT AUDIT CRITERIA CHECKLIST

Company: _____

Staff Assessed: _____

Depot Address: _____

Practical Assessment Location: _____

Item	Demonstrate (D) or Portfolio (P)	Comment
Section 4.3 to 7.2 A & B - 100% of criteria to be met (unless not an offered service***) Section 7.2 C & D - Oral Assessment - 8/10 topics to be answered satisfactorily		
4.3 Client Service	D P	
Job tracking / record-keeping		
Contract management		
Customer feedback recording		
Concise quotations		
Public liability / Professional indemnity insurance		
Company history		
Website		
4.4 Health and Safety	D P	
Current Worksite Health & Safety Policy understood / available		
Pre-start Hazard ID and recording		
Staff PPE provided / recorded / maintained		
Accident and incident reporting		
Equipment inspection records		
First Aid Certification / depot first aid kit		
Staff training / warranting records		
Emergency procedures / contact numbers		
Traffic Management Procedures (TMP)		
Drug and alcohol policy		
*** Utility Line Clearance written procedures		
4.5 Relevant Legislation / Codes of Practice	D P	
Health and Safety at Work Act 2015		
Resource Management Act 1991		
Property Law Acts 2007		
CoPTM (Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management)		
Electricity (Hazards from trees) Regulations 2003		
Approved COP Arboriculture Part 1 & 2		
Regional / Local District Plan Tree Rules		
Local Authority Tree Policies and Strategies		
Approved CoP for EWP and Cranes (March 2001)		
National, Regional and Local Plant Pest Lists		
4.6 Plant and Resources - Vehicles & Machinery	D P	
Specialist tools and equipment storage		
Vehicles displaying current Certificate / WoF		
Professional presentation and roadworthiness		
First Aid Kit / emergency procedure in vehicles		
Motor vehicle insurance / Public Liability		
Yard & Workshop - secure / safe / tidy		
*** Live line tool certification		
4.7 Human Resources		
CV - qualifications / skills of principal staff		
Accurate and up-to-date staff training records		
Induction / safety systems for new staff		
Written employment contracts / job descriptions		
Staff performance appraisals		
Ongoing training / quality improvement		
Crew adequately trained / equipped for the job		

Tick here if additional sheets used

☐ ☐

Tick here if additional sheets used No. of additional sheets (sign & date all sheets & include company applying)

☐ ☐

Assessor 1: _____

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

Assessor 2: _____

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

Company: _____

Staff Assessed: _____

Depot Address: _____

Practical Assessment Location: _____

Item	Demonstrate (D)	Comment
7.2 Arboriculture Techniques Work in Progress	D	
A Details - Assessor must observe on site		
Quotations – clear and reasonable		
Consent on site (if required)		
Site organization – safe and effective		
Emergency procedures / contact numbers		
Pre-start check of tools and equipment		
Pre-start hazard ID and recording		
Roles and communication clearly understood Correct PPE available and in use		
Traffic and pedestrian safety and control		
Rigging – ropes appropriate and set up correctly		
Climbing – in accordance with industry standards		
Safe use of chainsaws / chippers / ladders		
Controlled sectional stem / branch removal Controlled lowering with ropes / and-or winch		
*** Utility Line Clearance procedures		
B Item	D	P
Crown lifting / cleaning / thinning		
Branch end-weight reduction		
Crown reduction and shaping		
Drop crotching		
*** Cable and rod bracing / branch propping		
*** Root pruning		
*** Tree planting / staking / mulching		
*** EWP (must also see written procedures)		
*** Stumpgrinding		
Oral Assessment - potential topics to discuss with staff on site / site foreman / company principal		
C Utility Arboriculture	DKO	Comment
Evidence of Network authority approval		
Electrical hazard assessment / circuit ID		
Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003		
Minimum approach distances / close work zones		
Safe use of insulated tools / use of EWP		
Arboricultural Code of Practice – Part II		
Utility Line Clearance procedure		
D Amenity Arboriculture;	DKO	Comment
Current Worksite Health & Safety Policy		
Induction / safety systems for new staff		
Local Authority / District plan tree Rules		
Tree Identification – use of Botanical names		
Tree Hazard Assessment Systems		
Minimum approach distances / Circuit ID		
General tree knowledge		
DKO - local and regional pest plant lists		
Key		
EWP - Elevated work platform		DKO - Demonstrate Knowledge of
*** Contractor does / does not offer this service		Contractor did / did not demonstrate

Tick here if additional sheets used

☐☐

Tick here if additional sheets used No. of additional sheets

(sign & date all sheets & include company applying)

☐☐

Assessor 1: _____

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

Assessor 2: _____

Signature: _____

Dated: _____



Staff Assessed: _____

Practical Assessment Location:

[illegible]

Tick here if additional sheets used

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

ASSESSMENT EVALUATION FORM

This questionnaire has been developed to provide feedback to the association about the Approved Contractor Programme. The Approved Contractor Programme is a quality assurance programme for the tree care industry and therefore, it is imperative that it is reviewed by its users to assist with ongoing development.

This questionnaire seeks your comments about the ACP and the assessment visit. On receipt of the Approved Contractor status awarded to the business and the assessment report, you will be asked to complete Part B of the assessment evaluation form.

Name of Applicant _____

Trading Name _____

Assessor _____

Assessment Date _____

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. 1. How has the assessment process influenced your operation?

2. Do you feel you were provided with appropriate information to assist you to work through the process of the assessment? Please give details of areas where you would appreciate further guidance.

ORGANISATION OF THE ASSESSMENT

3. Was there adequate time to prepare for your assessment, once you had applied?

4. Were you provided with adequate information about:

(a) The assessment? _____

(b) The requirements of the assessor? _____

THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

5. Did you feel the assessor had adequate and appropriate information prior to visiting your business? Please provide reasons for your answers.

6. What did you (and the personnel in your business) see as the role of the assessor prior to the assessment?

7. Was your perception altered during or following the assessment?

8. Please comment on the assessor's professionalism, ability to ask questions and ability to provide adequate answers to any of your questions.

9. Please make any further comments you wish about the Approved Contractor assessment process and/or the assessor.

THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

10. Is the assessment report acceptable in its presentation and format? Please provide reasons for your answer.

11. Do you feel the report is an appropriate tool to assist your business to continue to work through the Approved Contractor Programme process? Please provide reasons for your answer.

12. Will your business re-apply for a further assessment at the termination of the period for which it has currently been awarded approval status?_____

13. Please make any further comments you wish about the assessment report and/or the Approved Contractors Programme.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form within seven days of the assessment to:

**The Approved Contractor Programme Coordinator
New Zealand Arboricultural Association
PO Box 1193
Nelson 7040
New Zealand**



APPENDIX 7

NZ ARB ACP APPLICATION FORM

Name of company:		
Physical Address:		
Postal Address:		
Phone:		
Email:		
Fax:		
Contact Person:		
Location for Inspection:		
Fee Included? (circle answer)	Yes / No – Invoice required	
Portfolio Included?		
Evidence photographed?		
Number of Years Trading as an Arboricultural Business:		
Range of Services Provided:	Amenity tree planting, pruning and removal	Y / N
Additional Services Provided:	Cable / rod bracing	Y / N
<small>NB. Consultancy Services are not assessed or approved under the NZ Arb Approved Contractor Programme</small>	Root pruning / cavity treatments / soil amendment	Y / N
	Mature tree transplanting	Y / N
	EWP / Cranes	Y / N
	Electrical / Utility Arboriculture	Y / N
We, the undersigned, agree to all terms and items in the Approved Contractor Programme Guide and application for Approved Contractor Status		

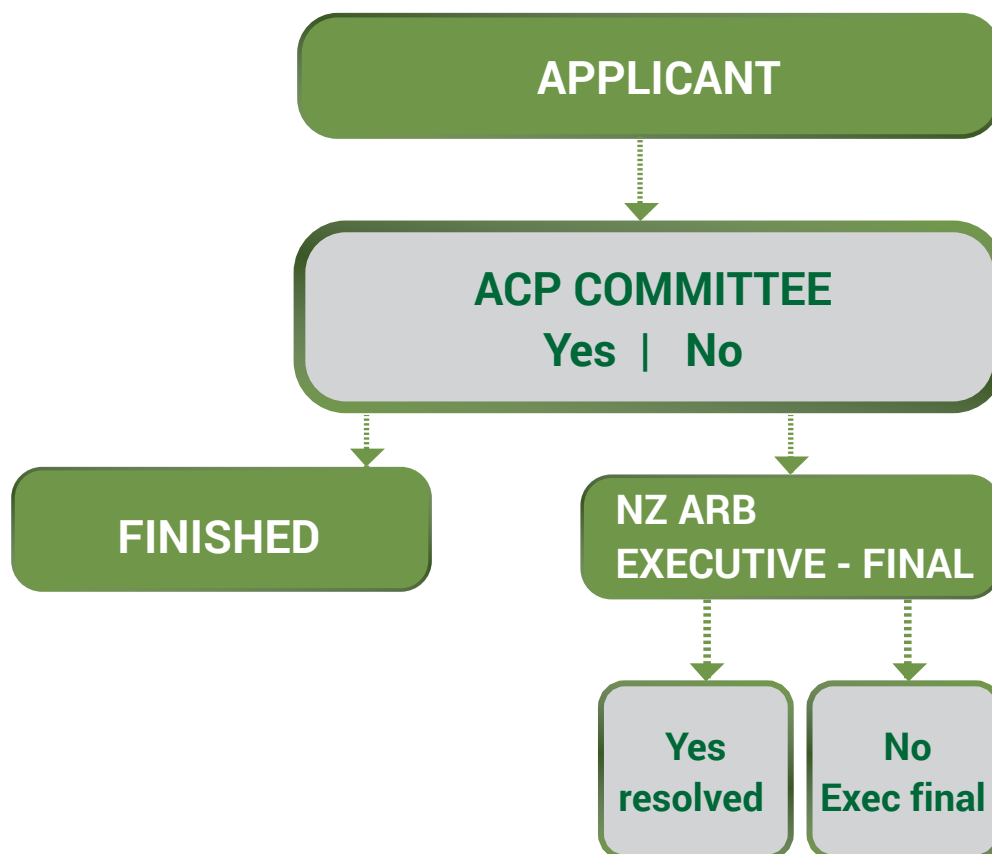
Print Name (Principal)

Signature (Principal)

Dated

PROCESS FOR DISPUTES

APPLICANT DISPUTE PROCESS



PROCESS FOR DISPUTES

DISPUTES FOR CUSTOMERS

