

MEMBERS' BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

SVLFG

App "Stockfibel to go" increases safety when felling trees

There are still a large number of often serious accidents during tree felling. Where motor-manual felling cannot be dispensed with, compliance with professional rules is vital.

With the again improved app "Stockfibel to go" of the German Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG), foresters have an aid to action for stock assessment at hand at any time. With it, they can assess the expertise in motor-manual felling. In other words, the "stick guide to go" can be used to determine whether the chainsaw operator is working safely or endangering himself and others while working.

After a tree has been felled, the remaining rootstock of the felled tree shows whether the chainsaw operator has worked competently and safely. The rootstock assessment shows whether the most important component of competent work is present during tree felling. Chainsaw operators, forest owners, contractors and clients are required to be able to assess, or have assessed, the safety of felling work on the basis of the stock image. Up to now, the assessment of the cane was reserved for a professionally experienced group of people. With the "Stockfibel to go" this is a thing of the past. With the assessment features drop notch, drop notch chord, break bar dimension, break bar shape, break stage and cut position, every user can make a meaningful and rule-compliant assessment of the stick appearance. This helps to increase work safety on a broad basis in the long term and to reduce the number of work accidents during motor-manual tree felling.

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How does this work in practice? With the help of the app, one can take stock images, record assessment features, save and manage stock images and results, and receive practical information and help. It is important to note that after only a short processing time, there are already results for the prescribed skilled crafts features. At the same time, the craftsmanship of the chainsaw work during tree felling is documented. The SVLFG recommends using the app for training as well.

Based on feedback from users, the SVLFG is continuously improving the app; this was also the case with the latest update. This has improved for the users:

- The app has been optimised for all mobile devices.
- The pictures can be enlarged for better editing.
- An assessment is now possible for cane diameters generally up to 80 centimetres.
- The definition of the cane diameter to be assessed is reversible.
- Recorded canes can be processed subsequently. This means that one only has to photograph the stick in the forest and the actual assessment can be done at a later time.

The app "Stockfibel to go" can be downloaded free of charge from the Google Play Store and the App Store. It can be used offline. The app does not collect any personal data. User behaviour is not tracked. The app does not establish a data connection to the SVLFG.

More info at: www.svlfg.de/app-stockfibel-to-go

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