

## **Notes on use for the ATTC-Tree Care**

### **Structure of this document**

The "Additional Technical Terms of Contract and Guidelines for Tree Care" (ATTC-Tree Care, in German: ZTV-Baumpflege), issued by the Forschungsgesellschaft Landschaftsentwicklung Landschaftsbau e. V. (FLL) correspond with the German Additional Technical Contract Conditions (ATV), § 1 (2) No. 4 VOB/B.

These accord with the structure of the General Technical Terms of Contract for Construction Work (ATV) and include the contractual provisions.

The ATTC-Tree Care must be agreed between the client and the contractor in each individual case and supplements the General Technical Contract Terms (ATV).

In this updated edition, sections 2 and 3 contain regulations that automatically become part of the contract once the ATTC is agreed. Supplementary explanations, recommendations and guidelines are not included in these sections.

Section 0 does not form part of the contract, but rather provides information for the client to assist with the completion of the technical specification, the monitoring, and the approval of services and sets out the instructions to specify services that go beyond, or deviate from, section 3 (so-called guidelines). All guidelines can be found in the new ATTC-Tree Care (ZTV-Baumpflege 2017) set out in section 0 (in the 2006 edition they were printed in italics in sections 2 and 3).

### **Instructions for use**

Sections 0 and 3 are so structured that the same headings are found in both sections. Furthermore, the last two digits in the numbering of the sections are always identical. Section 3 is to be read alongside the corresponding section 0.

Section 3 defines the standard services. Section 0 contains all options, modifications, and variations to the standard services, required by the client on request from the customer when preparing the specification.

**Overview of defined services of Tree Care:**

<b>Leistung</b>	<b>Abschnitte</b>
Formative pruning of young trees	0.2.2.1 and 3.2.1
Crown maintenance/crown cleaning	0.2.2.2 and 3.2.2
Crown lifting	0.2.2.3 and 3.2.3
Deadwood removal	0.2.2.4 and 3.2.4
Removal of Trunk and basal sprouts	0.2.2.5 and 3.2.5
Topiary/Architectural [new]	0.2.2.6 and 3.2.6
Pollarding [new]	0.2.2.7 and 3.2.7
Reduction pruning (single branches, parts off he crown, crown)	0.2.3.1 and 3.3.1
Immediate Action on damaged crowns following unforeseeable events (e. g. tornado, ice break-age) [new]	0.2.3.2 and 3.3.2
Restoration pruning of damaged trees with multiple epicormic branches or stems	0.2.3.3 and 3.3.3
Crown cabling	0.2.4 and 3.4
Tree supports, propping of branches	0.2.5 and 3.5
Stabilization of cracked trunk apexes and forks	0.2.6 and 3.6
Treatment of wounds [new]	0.2.7 and 3.7
Protection against bark damage [new]	0.2.8 and 3.8
Removal of tree bindings and trunk protection material on young trees	0.2.9 and 3.9
Extraneous vegetation	0.2.10 and 3.10
Tree protection on construction sites	0.2.11 and 3.11
Amelioration oft he root zone	0.2.12 and 3.12

# **ATTC-Tree Care**

## **Additional Technical Terms of Contract and Guidelines for Tree Care**

Prepared by the Editorial Board of ATTC-Tree Care

In close cooperation with the Working Group Tree Inspection/Tree Care

### **Notes for the user**

Any interested party may freely use the technical regulations issued by the FLL. An obligation to apply these guidelines may arise from any legal, administrative or contractual regulation or from any other legal requirements.

FLL guidelines are the result of voluntary technical and scientific cooperative work. The principles and rules applied when establishing these guidelines mean they can be considered technically correct.

FLL guidelines are an important source of expertise for professional behavior in standard working situations. However, they cannot include all special cases for which additional or restrictive measures may be required. Nevertheless, they present a benchmark for faultless technical behavior. This benchmark is also significant in the context of the law.

FLL guidelines are intended to be a “recognized code of practice”.

Using the FLL guidelines does not diminish the user’s responsibility for their own actions. Everyone is liable for his or her own actions. Everyone acts at his or her own risk. Anyone who identifies a mistake or ambiguity, which may lead to a wrong application of these guidelines, is requested to report it immediately to the FLL to ensure any flaws can be eliminated.

Modal auxiliary verbs (e. g. shall, should, must) and their meanings are of particular significance to gain a clear understanding of the regulations. See information in DIN 820 “Standardization”.

## ATTC-Tree Care – Additional Technical Terms of Contract and Guidelines for Tree Care

### Publisher

Forschungsgesellschaft Landschaftsentwicklung Landschaftsbau e. V. (FLL)  
Friedensplatz 4, D-53111 Bonn

Fon: +49 228 965010-0, Fax: +49 228 965010-20

Mail: [info@fll.de](mailto:info@fll.de), Website: [www.fll.de](http://www.fll.de)

### Compiled by Editorial Board ATTC–Tree Care

Prof. Dr. Dirk Dujesiefken (Chair – Editorial Board), Hamburg  
Claudia Amelung (Sachverständigen-Kuratorium e. V.), Hannover  
Thomas Amtage (Federation of German Landscape Architects), Berlin/Halberstadt  
Frank Bechstein (Qualitätsgemeinschaft Baumpflege und Baumsanierung e. V.), Kriftel  
Uwe Böckmann (Sozialversicherung für Landwirtschaft Forsten und Gartenbau), Kassel (until 2015)  
Peter Bott (Verband der Begrünungssystem-Hersteller e. V.), Bühl  
Katharina Brückmann (Friends of The Earth Germany), Schwerin  
Jörg Cremer (Fachverband geprüfter Baumpfleger e. V.), Bonn (starting 12.2015)  
Philipp Funck (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neue Baumpflege e. V.), Schwalmstadt  
Franz-Josef Gövert (GALK<sup>e.V.</sup> – Deutsche Gartenamtsleiterkonferenz), Münster  
Wolfgang Groß (Bundesverband Garten-, Landschafts- und Sportplatzbau e. V.), Bad Honnef  
Michael Hartmann (Bundesverband Garten-, Landschafts- und Sportplatzbau e. V.), Ellerau  
Kirstin Nieland (Bund Deutscher Forstleute e. V.), Bochum  
Hermann Reinartz (Sachverständigen-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Baumstatik e. V.), Köln  
Gerhard Schmidt (Road and Transportation Research Association e. V.), Gelsenkirchen  
Axel Schütze (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Gartenkunst und Landschaftskultur e. V.), Köln  
† Dr. Hans-Joachim Schulz (German Horticultural Association), Düsseldorf/Waldbröl  
Stefan Schwarz (RAL Gütegemeinschaft Baumpflege e. V.), Bremen  
Bodo Siegert (Fachverband geprüfter Baumpfleger e. V.), Altdorf (until 11.2015)  
† Dipl.-Ing. agr. Peter Uehre (Bund deutscher Baumschulen e. V.), Münster  
Jürgen Unger (ISA Germany e. V.), Hörstel-Riesenbeck  
Dr. Burkhard Walter (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sachverständige Garten-, Landschafts- und Sportplatzbau e. V.), Gütersloh

### Advisors

Andreas Detter, Gauting  
Heinz Schomakers (Bundesverband Garten-, Landschafts- und Sportplatzbau e. V.), Bad Honnef

### Consultation in Working Group Tree Inspection/Tree Care

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Balder	Jörg Hirzmann	Prof. Dr. Andreas Roloff
Dr. Joachim Bauer	Stephan Itner	Prof. Dr. Steffen Rust
Heiner Baumgarten	Prof. Dr. Rolf Kehr	Tanja Sachs
Uwe Böckmann	Peter Klug	Dr. Hans-Georg Scherer
Ralf Boesing	Bernd Knoblich	Ralf Semmler
Armin Braun	Dr. Jürgen Kutscheidt	Bodo Siegert
Jochen Brehm	Rolf Lambrecht	Thomas Sinn
Frank Briese	Helmut Lange	Bernhard Stoinski
Erk Brudi	Eiko Leitsch	Hartmut Tiedt
Andreas Detter	Dr. Georges Lesnino	Angelika Tiedtke-Crede
Klaus Feckler	Jörg Lohmann	† Markus Trabold
Bernd A. Fischer	Thomas Ludwig	Marko Wäldchen
Thomas Franke	Wolf Meyer-Ricks	Prof. Dr. Ulrich Weihs
Eckhard Gronek	Peter Nembach	Dr. Henrik Weiß
Elke Gronek	Dr. Christian Rabe	Dr. Lothar Wessolly
Roland Haering	Frank Rinn	

**Contact Partner at the FLL:** Tanja Büttner

**Text and Cover Design:** Tanja Büttner (FLL), Bonn

**Translation:** Jonathan Fine, Ben Wakeham, Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Detter

**Figures 1, 2, 3:** Prof. Dr. Yvonne-Christin Bartel, Kerstin Menssen, Prof. Gilbert Lösken, Hannover

**Figures. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:** Dietrich Kusche, Berlin

**Cover Image:** Tree (picture bottom): Dietrich Kusche, Berlin  
picture top left, top right: Sketches from the ATTC–Tree Care

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6<sup>th</sup> Edition 2017 (German), English Translation 2021, 500 copies, Bonn, June 2021

Previous Editions (German): 1981, 1987, 1993, 2001, 2006; Previous English Translation: 2007

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## Preface

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The first draft of the German “ZTV-Baumpflege” (ATTC-Tree Care) was developed in 1981. Further editions followed in 1993, 2001, 2006 and 2017. It corresponds to the current state of science and the experience of practice, so that it can be regarded as a recognized technical regulation in the sense of the German Construction Contract Procedures (VOB). The 2006 edition was translated into English and was published in 2007. The translation of the latest German edition of this regulation is hereby available and replaces the 2007 edition.

Over the years, tree care has continued to evolve. Research results and practical experience have gradually brought new insights. While the 1987 edition was still dominated by tree surgery, the subsequent editions gradually eliminated the substantial components of tree surgery. These included, for example, the flush cut, the installation of drainage tubes, the use of wood preservatives for wound treatment and the milling out of rot in the trunk. Instead, tree biology has been increasingly taken into account, the implementation of professional crown pruning has become more detailed and the execution of non-invasive crown cabling has moved into the focus of this regulation.

The present ATTC-Tree Care has been heavily revised in terms of content. Formative pruning of young trees, topiary and pollarding, immediate actions on damaged tree crowns following unforeseeable events (like tornadoes, ice storms), along with the removal of tree binding and stem protection material on young trees, have been newly taken up or regulated in more detail. Crown thinning, regenerative pruning and crown safety pruning are no longer part of this issue. Furthermore, crown anchoring is no longer included in the ATTC-Tree Care.

The ATTC-Tree Care is not a textbook. It contains contract texts for tenders. The different chapters are designed for the tendering practice in Germany. This regulation can also be used in other countries. It is important to note that the individual tree care activities are described in two chapters: in 0 and 3. For example, crown reduction can be found in both 0.2.3.1 and 3.2.1. Chapter 3 (Implementation) defines the standard service. Chapter 0 (Directions for the Compilation of Service Specifications) contains all further possibilities and variations to the standard work, which the client can add or change when drawing up the service description. All information in chapter 0 is therefore to be understood as a checklist for the planning of tree care work. Also important for the planning is chapter 2 (Materials, Components). Chapters 1 and 4 deal mainly with contract law in Germany. The appendix contains many technical explanations and a comprehensive chapter with definitions.



This means that in chapters 2 (Materials, Components) and 3 (Implementation) only agreements can be made which are clearly understood by both contracting partners and do not leave room for interpretation. In former editions, chapter 3 often used words such as “if necessary”, “when needed” or “should” like in a text book. But such formulations do not belong in a contractual agreement, because the scope of services is not clearly defined. For this reason, all sections regarding the use of the modal auxiliary verbs had to be critically reviewed and revised. The specific measures in chapter 3 now include phrases such as “may not,” “must be taken”, or “shall be cut.” This is unambiguous and meets the requirements of an ATTC.

This issue represents a completely new ATTC-Tree Care. We thank the members of the Editorial Board “ATTC-Tree Care” and the FLL working group “Tree Inspections/Tree Care” as well as the special experts involved for their cooperation and commitment to the further development of tree care.

We would be pleased if the ATTC-Tree Care also contributes outside of Germany to making tree care more professional and helps to preserve our trees in the future.

Bonn, June 2021

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kias  
President of the FLL

Prof. Dr. Dirk Dujesiefken  
Chair Editorial Board ATTC-Tree Care

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## Introduction – Tree Care Objectives

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The vitality of trees is governed by the development possibilities and activities of their above and below ground plant components. The species-appropriate and functional development of trees in urban areas and in close proximity to roads is particularly affected by inadequate site conditions (e. g. soil compaction, sealing), improper species selection, mechanical damage to the crown, trunk or roots (e. g. collision damage, excavations, overfilling), mistakes during cultivation, planting or maintenance as well as environmental influences (pollution, winter services, climate change).

In order to counteract the resulting undesirable developments, and to minimize the necessary interventions, regular, professional tree care measures must be introduced at an early stage to develop, maintain and restore trees to vitality and to safeguard traffic. The aim is to work towards long-term health and safety in trees, starting with a forward-looking formative pruning of young trees. In all development phases of the tree, the respective tree care procedures are to be determined within the framework of regular inspections. Then, taking into account the issues of wildlife protection, the required individual tree care measures must be determined.

For physiological reasons, pruning measures are generally to be carried out during the vegetative phase (optimally between leaf development and autumn coloring).

The aim of proper and regular tree care is the preservation, promotion and restoration of vital and sufficiently safe trees.

To check the condition of trees regarding safety requirements, see “Baumkontrollrichtlinien” and “Baumuntersuchungsrichtlinien” from the FLL, [“Tree Inspection Guidelines” and “Tree Assessment Guidelines”].

The “Empfehlungen für Baumpflanzungen – Teil 1 and 2” as well as “Gütebestimmungen von Baumschulpflanzen” from the FLL [“Recommendations for Tree Planting – Part 1 and 2” and “Quality Specifications for Tree Nurserystock”] give guidance for the planning and site preparation for tree planting as well as for planting work, planting pits and root zone expansion.