



UKFCG E-NEWS - FOCUS ON SAFETY

FEBRUARY 2015

Timber Stacks [UKWAS 8.1.1. a) & b), also UKWAS requirements 7.4.2, 4.1.2, 4.2.1]

An ongoing source of discussion, and continued scrutiny by FSC auditors! Here are some notes to help you stay safe and comply with Certification requirements.

FISA Guide 503 – Extraction by Forwarder states [see also FISA 502]:

- Stacks of timber should always be made and maintained in a stable condition.
- Where there is to be additional manual handling, the height of the stacked timber should not exceed about 1m. *So far as is reasonably practicable, avoid stack heights above 2m.*
- Take special care in areas frequented by the public. Where appropriate, although not a substitute for safe stacking, a prohibition ('Do not climb on timber stacks') sign conforming to the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 should be displayed, and/or the stacking site enclosed with hazard warning tape.

FISA Guide 504 – Extraction by Cable Crane states:

- Avoid stacking on top of steep roadside banks.
- Stacks of timber, including unprocessed trees, should always be made and maintained in a stable condition taking account of:
 - the width and height of the stack;
 - the slope and firmness of the ground;
 - the use of self-release or manual-release chokers;
 - the prevailing weather conditions;
 - the level of potential public access.

Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice states:

The height of timber stacks should not exceed 2.0 metres from the road surface, *unless specifically covered by risk assessment.*

HSE Stacking round timber, sawn timber and board materials – Safe Working Practices:

Includes more detailed information.

This document is available at: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis2.htm. Specifically the information note states:

- **Your risk assessment made under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 should cover the hazards and risks from stacking** and storage activities in your workplace. It should cover your employees and any others at risk, for example members of the public or contractors visiting your premises.
- The height of the log stacks should be justified by the site risk assessment. The height should however be limited to within the safe range of the grabber and take into account the cab position and the protection it has
- The maximum stacking angles should be 45° but if it is not possible to keep stacks separate from workers then the angle should not exceed 35°.
- Wedges should be used to fix the logs and prevent them from rolling.

Further generic guidance can be obtained from the following publications:
Forest Practice Note FCPN019 Managing Public Safety on Harvesting Sites
FISA Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry



Safety Helmets / Hard Hats [UKWAS 8.1.1. a)]

It has come to our attention that recent external audits have seen auditors focusing on condition of safety helmets worn by contractors on site. The following information will help define replacement protocols for safety helmets.

Transportation and storage: Safety helmets offer protection to the wearer against falling objects and consequential brain injury and skull fracture. Helmets should be transported and stored in a bag in cool dry conditions out of direct sunlight. To ensure optimum performance it is essential that both the outer shell and internal harness are correctly maintained, cleaned and free from defects. A significant impact to the helmet will result in reduced future protection, even if physical visual deformation is not apparent. **In any event, if any cracks are detected, the helmet must be discarded immediately.** Do not apply tape, paint, solvents, adhesives or self-adhesive labels to the shells. Any such application may reduce the effectiveness of the helmet.

Life: Where the helmet is in use every day and particularly when used outdoors, helmets should be discarded after 2 years in use. For indoor or occasional use, an effective working life of up to 5 years can be anticipated. The above life expectancies assume the helmet is stored in the correct conditions and properly maintained, including regular inspection of condition. The date stamp found on the underside of the peak indicates the month and year of manufacture. This should not be taken as the 'in-service' date for 'product life' purposes.

Free Forestry Health and Safety Awareness Days

10th of March 2015 – SRUC Barony Campus, Parkgate, Dumfries & Galloway

24th of March 2015 – New Forest, Deorfrith Lodge, Lyndhurst, Hampshire

HSE will be hosting two Safety and Health Awareness Days for the forestry industry in March 2015. Run by the Forestry Commission's Learning and Development team, the purpose of the events is to raise awareness about important health and safety issues affecting commercial forestry operations. The days are aimed chiefly at those directly involved in forestry operations, from forestry work managers to site supervisors, to those actually carrying out the work.

Trainers who have years of forestry experience will cover issues relating to the use of forestry machinery and forestry chainsaw work, including directional felling, the use of hydraulic wedges and bottle jacks, hand-arm body vibration, and public access issues.

More information at <http://www.ukfisa.com/news-events/events/forestry-workers-urged-to-sign-up-for-safety-events.html>

To book a place, or places, at this event (indicating whether you wish to attend the morning or afternoon session) please e-mail Treework.SHADS@hse.gsi.gov.uk by Friday, 6th March 2015. Applications will be confirmed upon receipt.

FORESTRY WORKS MANAGER course dates

Alice Holt - 6 & 7 May 2015

Cannock Training Centre - 13 & 14 May 2015

More information at <http://www.ukfisa.com/news-events/news/fwm-and-main-contractor-management-training-course.html>



FISA Safety updates - including winter driving, hydraulics, new entrants supervision

New Entrants to Forestry and Supervision

A reminder to all supervisors of the need to provide supervision particularly to new entrants to forestry.

[Download Document](#)

Hydraulic Pressure Release

This [Safe Quarry Incident Alert](#) relating to the Hydraulics on an Excavator is relevant to the forest industry

Winter Driving

Timely advice for all driving in snow and icy conditions from the Freight Transport Association.

[Download Document](#)

Off cut strikes Operator

A 60cm offcut from a tree rolled down a slope and struck an operator working below. He suffered bruising to his back but the outcome could have been much more serious.

See Euroforest Safety Notice and emphasis on observance of Risk Zones

[Download Document](#)

UKFCG – Progress Report

We now have 42 full members included on our certificate with a total hectareage of 27,044. A further 6 applications have been received and we hope to add these to the certificate very soon.