

## Safe Work Procedure – Cable Yarding – Mobile Swing Yarder/Operator

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** Adequate Footwear  
Hearing Protection  
Hi-vis Vest  
Hi-vis Hardhat

It is the responsibility of the Operator to report maintenance problems which could interfere with the safe operation of the machine. An Operator is expected to operate the machine in a safe, efficient manner at all times.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

- A safe and efficient operation of a swing yarder demands a maximum of cooperation between the people involved.
- An authorized means of communication must be used.
- Both the Engineer and the Hooktender should set the radio to cut out a maximum of interference.

### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

- Ensure all personnel understand signals.
- Use proper signals at all times.
- Any signal that is not clearly understood shall be treated as a **STOP** signal and ask for a repeat. **IF IN DOUBT - STOP.**
- If there is a danger of signals not being understood, the operator shall repeat the signal before proceeding.
- Check radios daily at startup to ensure they are working properly.

### **MAINTENANCE:**

- If the machine is kept clean, the maintenance check can be done properly to correct problems before they become a safety hazard.

### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

- Clean up oil spills to prevent slips and falls.
- Use solvent for cleaning, not gas or diesel.
- Keep guards in place.
- Shut down motor when refueling or doing, maintenance work on motors or winch.
- Never use compressed air to clean your person or clothes.
- Report any maintenance problems to the shop as soon as possible and use proper forms.
- The cleaning, oiling or adjusting of moving machinery is prohibited when contact with moving parts could injure a workman.

## **RIGGING**

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### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

- Inspect boom lines weekly and replace as required.
- Inspect all other lines and rigging regularly and replace it as necessary.
- Slack lines and place the grapple on the ground before leaving the machine unattended.
- Guylines must be marked if they are a hazard to traffic.
- Use proper spooling tool when spooling line.

## **MOVING**

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### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

- Ensure everyone is clear and accounted for before moving.
- Give the proper signal with the horn before moving.
- Ensure traction is adequate before moving on snow or ice; use sand or a snub line if required.
- When moving on steep grades with the rigging out, lower the boom to counteract the weight of the counter weight.
- When traveling up a steep grade, lower the boom to avoid the boom coming back.
- Keep drive chains behind when moving up a steep grade and ensure the travel brakes are adjusted.
- Ensure path of the machine is clear of logs and other obstacles.
- Use a signal man when moving the machine in congested or hazardous areas (i.e. narrow road).
- Do not move the yarder and tailhold back spar at the same time.

## **YARDING**

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- At no time should the grapple be handled when attempting to pick up a log. If the grapple cannot be talked onto a log, move the machine or use a choker.

### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

- The back end of all mobile grapple yarders shall be at least 2 feet clear of all obstacles. Ensure no workman boards the machine without the Operator's permission.
- Make sure all crew members are in the clear before moving the turn.
- Be careful of jillpoking logs already in the landing.
- When necessary, take signals from the Chaser.
- Pile logs properly to avoid creating a hazard for loading crews.
- Extra care should be taken while yarding with a mobile tailhold back spar to avoid tipping it.

## **GENERAL**

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### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

- Report incidents or accidents to your Supervisor/Foreman or First Aid Man as soon as possible.
- No unauthorized personnel to be on the machine when yarding or moving.
- Wear a hard hat when outside the cab.
- Use personal protective equipment when required (i.e., hearing protection).
- Use safety goggles when cutting line.
- Watch footing on the machine to avoid slips and falls.

