Safe Work Procedure – Loader Operator

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Hi-vis Hardhat
Gloves
Hearing Protection
Suitable Footwear
Hi-vis Clothing

PROCEDURES:

- Check to ensure the machine is in safe operating condition before use.
- Wear seatbelt at all times when machine is operating.
- Ensure all workers are in the clear.
- Do not move logs overhead of workers on landing.
- Communicate either verbally or by hand signals.
- Spread logs for bucker, so they may be bucked in a safe manner.
- Organize landing, log decks, debris pile, and truck loading.
- Keep landing clear of bucked off ends and other debris.
- Operate at a safe speed.
- If logs are above the log truck stakes, restrain the load until wrappers have been applied.
- Follow lock-out or de-energization procedures while conducting maintenance work on the machine.
- Always enter and leave the machine in a safe manner. Use the handholds for stability and beware of slipping hazards that exist, particularly in winter.

LOG TRUCK LOADING:

- All landing workers, including truck drivers, must be in view, in the clear or their whereabouts known before logs or equipment are moved.
- Logs must be decked in a manner to facilitate safe loading.
- Keep all buts or ends even.
- Turn logs that should be loaded butt ahead.
- Position log decks to eliminate extra maneuvering when loading.
- Have all logs bucked, limbed and stamped when required.
- The truck must always be positioned properly for before hooking up the trailer.
- Always use proper signals when directing truck movements.
- A distinctive signal to indicate that the load is finished should be used. Ensure all workers are in the clear.
- Lift trailers off with caution and ensure that the trailer lifting-strap has not deteriorated.
- Providing that the loader can easily handle the trailer, the lifting-strap should be properly positioned on the trailer. This will make it convenient for the driver to guide the reach and by the proper handholds, which should be provided on the reach.
- With some trucks, the compensator can also be moved to facilitate hookup.
- If the truck is to be backed onto the reach and coupled, the trailer lifting-strap can be repositioned slightly to permit the reach to lift off the ground before the trailer wheels are lifted.
- The person hooking up the trailer should always stand off to the side to enable the operator to see the reach and the hitch.

LOG TRUCK LOADING:

- If the deck is beside the truck, logs shall not be picked up from it until the driver and/or other workers have finished their duties and have moved to the safe zone.
- Loading shall cease at any time that the loader operator is uncertain that the driver is in the cab or is in the clear in front of the truck.
- When approaching a truck with a grapple full of logs, avoid traveling with the grapple at full height. Keep the grapple low until near the truck, then raise the grapple. This will ensure better control of the loader at all times.
- Logs shall be loaded to ensure the stability of the vehicle and load while in transit.
- Logs shall be well positioned in their lay, without crowding, to avoid excessive strain on the stake-liner and stakes.
- To ensure stakes remain at a safe angle, logs shall be laid tight to minimize slack in the stake cables.
- Bunk and stake logs shall extend at least 12 inches (30cm) beyond the bunks or stakes.
- Logs shall be loaded clear of the bulkhead to avoid being bunk-bound on corners.
- When loading small diameter logs, two tiers should be used as bunk and stake logs before loading short logs onto the load.
- Never place split, cracked or shattered logs on the bunk or against the stakes.
- Not more than one third of the weight of the logs shall extend beyond the trailer or beyond the ends of the logs supporting them.
- Care should be taken to properly balance the load, especially on off-highway trucks. A side heavy load or a load with too much weight on the trailer could cause a truck to tip over or “spin-out” under wet or icy conditions.
- Workers are not permitted to stand on the cab platforms of trucks when loading by conventional methods. If this occurs, the loader operator shall cease loading until the worker is removed.
- Operators shall ensure that all workers are safely in the clear before initiating or continuing the motion of any mobile equipment.
- Although operators are responsible, it is also the responsibility of buckers and other workers to stay clear of any area considered to be hazardous due to the movement of such equipment.
- There must be a specific procedure for all equipment and vehicle operators, to allow safe movement through active log landings. Landing workers in charge of traffic control shall be thoroughly instructed in this procedure.
- Truck drivers must wear a hi-vis orange or red hard hat and a hi-vis clothing at all times when within the boundaries of the logging area.
- The truck driver must not move his load until the load has proper binders attached.

ADDITIONAL SWP NOTES