

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to BCTS staff and BCTS LPC's (Licensees, Permittees, and Contractors) on identifying hazard areas of logging equipment, designating safe work areas, traffic control, and the appropriate use of the active worksite signs we provide to our clients.

### Applicable Regulations

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations in forestry operations include requirements for traffic control, identifying hazard areas of logging equipment, and designating safe work areas. Instructional signage can be used to help meet these requirements. In addition to the use of instructional signs and radio procedures, traffic control persons may be required to ensure that traffic control is effective.

The following is a list of applicable OHS regulations.....

#### **26.14.1 Hazard area of logging equipment**

- (1) A hazard area created by the operation of logging equipment must be identified.
- (2) Every hazard area identified under subsection (1) must be communicated to all workers in close proximity to the operating logging equipment and to the hazard area.
- (3) A worker must not enter into or proceed on foot through a hazard area referred to in subsection (1) unless the equipment operator first gives permission to the worker in a clear and unmistakable manner.

#### **26.14.2 Designated safe work area**

- (1) A safe work area must be designated for workers on foot in close proximity to any operating logging equipment.
- (2) The boundaries of a safe work area designated under subsection (1) must be communicated to all workers within and in close proximity to the safe work area.
- (3) No equipment may enter into or proceed through a safe work area unless
  - (a) the equipment operator first obtains permission in a clear and unmistakable manner from all of the workers in that safe work area or from the supervisor of those workers, and
  - (b) those workers take a safe position.

#### **26.14.3 Traffic control**

If vehicles on a road in a forestry operation are required to drive through a hazard area identified in section 26.14.1 or through a safe work area designated in section 26.14.2, effective traffic control appropriate to the hazard must be implemented.

#### **26.30 Traffic control**

If, in any type of falling activity, a tree being felled may create a hazard to a user of a road, effective traffic control must be used to stop or control approaching traffic.

#### **26.83 Traffic control systems**

- (1) An effective traffic control system must be used by all vehicles on a section of road that is too narrow to permit 2 or more vehicles to pass.
- (2) The traffic control system must include
  - (a) turnouts, where required,
  - (b) vehicles operating with their headlights and, if fitted, flashing beacons, turned on,
  - (c) warning signs where required, and

(d) instructional signs, including kilometre and road name or number signs.

#### **26.83.1 Radio traffic control**

Instructional signs must be posted showing

- (a) radio channels on a road or a section of a road where radio channels are being used for traffic control, or
- (b) radio frequencies on a road or a section of a road where radio frequencies, but not radio channels, are being used for traffic control.

#### **Signage Clauses Specific to Timber Sale Licenses (taken from the FS 575 Timber Sale License document)**

11.08 If the Licensee wishes to communicate by means of radio, the Licensee must

- (a) post the radio frequency at the start of the road,
- (b) erect kilometre markers along that road, and
- (c) ensure that all vehicles working for and on behalf of the Licensee use the posted frequency in an appropriate manner.

\*Note: This clause is specific to roads. Our active worksite signs can help meet this requirement for communication on road permit and in-block roads where the Licensee is not using a posted resource road channel.

7.02 If directed by the Timber Sales Manager, the Licensee must erect signs at all exits from the cutting authority area, clearly showing the timber mark(s) referred to in paragraph 7.01.

\*Note: Our Active Worksite signs should not be used to meet this requirement if the instructions on the sign are not applicable to the locations mentioned in 7.02.

#### **Direction on use of the BCTS issued Active Worksite Signs**

The use of the BCTS Active Worksite sign is not mandatory. LPC's can post their own signage with appropriate instructions on what to do before entering a hazard area.

The signs provided by BCTS state "Active Worksite Before entering all persons must contact the supervisor for a safety briefing". If used these signs must be placed in a location where the instructions are applicable. Do not place the sign in a location where there is no activity and the supervisor or designate cannot be reached.

#### **Expectations**

LPC's must have effective traffic control in situations where entry into a forestry operation poses a safety hazard to workers and members of the public.

When signs are posted that warn workers and the public of active operations these signs need to be taken down when operations are in-active.

In situations where operations are occurring on a road commonly used by the public (i.e. mainline leading to a recreation area) than LPC's should incorporate a traffic control system that does not rely solely on signage and radio communications as it is unlikely that members of the public will have access to the applicable channel or frequency. Traffic control persons may be required in these scenarios.

BCTS staff will be assessing the effectiveness of traffic control during inspections on LPC activities. If any safety concerns are identified BCTS will notify the LPC supervisor and if required corrective action plans will be put in place.