

TO: All NZFM Cartage & Harvesting Contractors and Employees

From: NZ Forest Managers

Date: 18 August 2023

Re: SAFETY ALERT; WEARING OF PPE

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

It is the requirement of NZFM that all forestry workers and truck drivers must wear all required PPE before exiting their vehicles at all times. This includes truck drivers while loading/unloading, chaining up/checking chains or carrying out inspections or any other duties while outside of the protection of the truck cab. PPE must meet AS/NZS 4602.1:2011 standards.

Recent NZFM Staff observations have noticed far too many truck drivers failing to observe this basic safety requirement.

We have also noticed many drivers wearing scuffs and/or Jandals while driving and performing the above mentioned tasks.

For reasons of safety, NZFM cannot condone the wearing of, or driving in, Jandals or similar loose footwear while in our employment, for the same reasons that the Police and the Automobile Association frown upon it, because they provide no protection, and while driving, especially in wet weather, it increases the potential for your foot to slip off a vehicle's pedals. Such loose footwear can also lodge itself under your pedals, potentially delaying braking reaction times.

We encourage drivers to wear their safety boots to improve grip on the pedals while driving. We also instruct that drivers wear all PPE before stepping out of the truck at any site. Exiting the cab without your PPE is a prohibited practice however compliance is assured if you're already wearing it.



What does the law say?

The Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016 require PCBUs to provide workers with PPE (such as protective clothing) that is:

- suitable for the nature of the work and any risks associated with that work
- a suitable size, fit, and be reasonably comfortable
- suitably maintained, repaired and replaced
- compatible with any other PPE.

PCBUs must also provide workers with information and training about how to properly wear or use PPE, and how to store and maintain it.

The law also states that it is illegal to drive a vehicle in an unsafe manner, and, in the event of an accident, should Police conclude that your footwear contributed to that accident, drivers could be charged.

However, the sole position and focus of NZFM, is always the safety of our drivers and those with whom they share the road.



2.5 FOA Guideline Garment Classes

Two garment classes are specified in this section of the Guideline dependant on whether the garment will be worn strictly in the hours of daylight or if the garment will be worn in both hours of daylight and darkness where they will be seen by retroreflected light.

Acronym	Name	Intended Use
FID	Forest Industries Day Time	Class FID garments are intended to provide the wearer with high visibility under daylight viewing conditions and are intended for the bulk of the forest workers operating in daylight hours. Note: Users should take care that these garments are not mistakenly worn at night in situations that put the wearer at risk. Fluorescent materials are generally not effective when viewed under artificial light.
FIDN	Forest Industries Day Night	Class FIDN garments are intended to provide the wearer with high visibility under both daylight viewing conditions and night-time viewing using retroreflected light. This design is intended for workers who operate under both day and night conditions.

Loader drivers are instructed not to load any truck until the truck driver is wearing the correct PPE particularly during the hours of darkness.

Note; FIDN garments are recommended for wearing during both day and night hours

Safetree Best Practice guidelines for Transport



Driver wearing personal protective equipment

Personal protective equipment

The minimum safety requirements for transport operators are:

- Safety boots. Compliant with AS/NZS 2010
- Hi-vis clothing (must have at least 150 cm² of reflective material back and front if working during the hours of darkness)
- Hi-vis helmet when outside of a protected cab. Compliant with AS/NZS 1801:1997
- Gloves when setting up truck/trailer or changing tyres.
- Safety glasses compliant with AS/NZS 1337:1992
- Personal protective equipment will be worn at all times while on the job and outside the cab of the truck.

Truck driver requirements

Training

All drivers must have the correct licence for the machine they are operating. Also, they must be trained or under training for the task they are performing.

Drivers should hold the NZQA Unit Standard 17769 (General Requirements) and a First Aid Certificate (NZQA Units 6401 and 6402) before commencing employment as a driver in a forest.

Signed

