

Comparison of 2012 vs 2025 Forestry Approved Codes of Practice

1. Side-by-Side Comparison

Aspect	2012 ACOP (Safety and Health in Forest Operations)	2025 ACOP (Safe Practice for Forestry and Harvesting Operations)
Publishing Authority	Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE)	WorkSafe New Zealand
Year of Publication	December 2012	August 2025
Governing Legislation	Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992	Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA)
Approval Authority	Acting Minister of Labour	Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
Legal Status	Preferred work practices (Courts may consider compliance)	Formal ACOP under HSWA (Section 222) – revoked 2012 ACOP
Purpose/Focus	Reduce fatalities/injuries by 25% by 2020	WorkSafe’s expectations for PCBUs; modern risk-based approach
Structure	Chapters: General Safety, PPE, Tools/Equipment, Mobile Plant, Fires, Roads/Landings, Hazardous Substances, Silviculture, Felling, Breaking Out, Landings, Cable Harvesting	Parts A–F: Contracting Chain, General Requirements, Site Access, Silviculture, Mobile Plant/Harvesting, Landings & Loading, Appendices
Scope	Task-based (chainsaws, pruning, fire control, cable harvesting, hazardous substances)	Broader: fatigue, mental health, overlapping PCBUs, communications, drugs & alcohol, mechanisation
Worker Health	Focus on physical safety; limited reference to health beyond PPE	Strong focus on physical & mental health, fatigue, wellbeing, worker engagement

Aspect	2012 ACOP (Safety and Health in Forest Operations)	2025 ACOP (Safe Practice for Forestry and Harvesting Operations)
Contracting Chain	Principals, Employers, Employees, Visitors – traditional roles	PCBUs, overlapping duties, officers, workers – systematic legal chain
PPE Guidance	Detailed task-specific PPE requirements	PPE as part of layered risk management; industry standards highlighted
Training & Competency	Covered roles and responsibilities; not systematic	Detailed verification of competency, records, ongoing training
Drugs & Alcohol	Not explicitly addressed	Explicitly addressed; control measures included
Hazard Management	Hazard management included; emphasis on operational hazards	Systematic risk management (eliminate/minimise), overlapping duties
Key Emphasis	Technical, operational, task-based safety rules	System-based, HSWA-aligned, worker participation

2. Section Mapping (2012 → 2025)

2012 ACOP Section	2025 ACOP Equivalent Section
1. Introduction	Part A: About this ACOP & HSWA duties
2. General Safety	Part B: General requirements (workers, facilities, emergencies, risk management)
3. Personal Protective Equipment	Part B: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
4. Tools and Equipment	Part E: Mobile plant & harvesting (tools integrated into safe site/safe practice)
5. Wire Rope	Part E: Cable logging (wire rope safety integrated)

2012 ACOP Section	2025 ACOP Equivalent Section
6. Mobile Plant	Part E: Mobile plant (safe machine, safe practice, LUVs, quads, mechanised systems)
7. Controlled Fires and Burnoffs	Part B: Workplace emergency plans + Part E (fire risks in harvesting context)
8. Road and Landing Construction and Earthworks	Part C: Site access and preparation of log landings (roads, crossings, signage)
9. Hazardous Substances	Part B: Risk management + Appendix 6 (hazardous substances integrated under HSWA)
10. Establishment and Silviculture	Part D: Establishment and Silviculture
11. Tree Felling	Part E: Manual tree felling (system-based approach, 7 causes of harm, 5-step plan)
12. Breaking Out	Part E: Cable logging – safe breaking out
13. Work on Landings	Part F: Work on landings, loading/unloading, biomass processing
14. Cable Harvesting	Part E: Cable logging – general safety principles, yarder setup, communications

3. New Areas Introduced in 2025 ACOP

New 2025 Section	Status in 2012 ACOP
Part A: Contracting chain and PCBU's (overlapping duties, officers, upstream PCBU's)	Not covered – used principals/contractors/employers instead
Part B: Worker health – fatigue, mental health, vibration, UV, noise	Not covered – focus was on physical safety only
Part B: Drugs and alcohol risk management	Not covered – no explicit controls
Part B: Worker participation, engagement and representation	Not covered – no formal requirement under HSE Act

New 2025 Section	Status in 2012 ACOP
Part B: Training, competency verification, supervision, record-keeping	Covered lightly – not systematic or legally framed
Part B: Communications – effective systems (remote/isolated work)	Not explicitly covered – limited to emergencies
Part C: Expanded guidance on traffic management and authorised visitors	Covered briefly – less detailed
Part E: Mechanised felling & winch-assisted harvesting	Not covered – mechanisation expanded post-2012
Part E: System-based manual felling guidance (7 causes, 5-step plan)	Covered – but less structured
Part F: Wood residual and biomass processing	Not covered – biomass not addressed
Appendices: HSWA duties, managing risk, overlapping duties, standards	Not included – reflects HSWA 2015 law changes