

## Approved Code of Practice for Forestry and harvesting operations and Good practice guidelines for Managing a safe and healthy small forest harvest

The guidance sets out how businesses and workers can do their forestry and harvesting work in a healthy and safe way. New guidance is in effect from **26 August 2025**.

### What's changed in the 2025 guidance?

- The new guidance is in line with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA). It helps businesses to **find and manage their own risks** to keep people safe, rather than giving step by step instructions.
- Multiple documents have been put together. There is now **one ACOP** and **one GPG**, as well as education resources. It's easier to find the information you need.
- The new guidance is easier to understand. It uses words that both WorkSafe and the forestry industry have agreed on.
- The word 'must' is used when a business is **legally required** to do something under health and safety law. Where 'must' isn't used, it's a recommended action – **it's good practice**.
- More information has been added. There's now guidance on **new topics** such as work-related health, establishment and silviculture, and winch-assisted harvesting.
- It includes **real, everyday examples** from the forestry industry.

### What hasn't changed?

- The guidance is good practice which helps businesses meet the requirements of HSWA. It can be used by everyone to **help keep safe at work**.
- Forestry businesses still need to have their own systems and processes in place. Industry leaders have other guidance that gives specific direction on forestry operations.

### How to use the guidance

- Read it, talk about it, put it into action.
- It's important to talk about the guidance, and what it means, with your employer and your workmates. Organisations like Safetree can help.
- There are online modules to help you put the guidance into practice – visit **WorkSafe.govt.nz**
- WorkSafe will continue to visit forestry sites. Inspectors are trained to work with you and help make improvements.

**We want everyone to come home from work healthy and safe. Do it for you, your workmates, and your whānau.**