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LOGGING EQUIPMENT GUARDING

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Logging contractors must provide a safe work place for their employees. When purchasing a new or used machine, the logger has a duty to review the particular application and job site for the machine and to identify the potential hazards inherent to that application or job site. Based on the results of this hazard analysis, the appropriate operator and equipment guarding can be determined. All logging machinery manufacturers are required by OSHA to provide basic protective guarding for the operator and machine. However a particular application may require additional guarding which can sometimes be obtained from the manufacturer or may be fabricated by the machine purchaser. Local regulations may require guarding beyond that supplied by the manufacturer, so a check for compliance should be done.

Operator Protection

Woods equipment must be equipped with proper rollover protective structure (ROPS), and/or falling object protective structure (FOPS), proper muffler and exhaust, and a fully protective operator station. The total upper portion of the cab shall be fully enclosed with mesh material with openings no greater than 2 inches (5.08 cm) at its least dimension or other transparent material which provides equivalent protection and visibility.

Deflectors (Limb Risers) shall be installed in front of each cab to deflect whipping saplings and branches. Deflectors shall be located so as not to impede visibility and access to the cab.

Transparent material that may create a hazard for the operator, such as cracked, broken or scratched safety glass, should be replaced before operating a machine. Lexan (Polycarbonates) may have a replacement life, so check with the supplier and replace as needed.

Ground Worker Protection

Debarking, limbing, and chipping machines shall be equipped with guarding to protect employees from flying wood chunks, logs, chips, bark, limbs, and other debris. Establish "Safe Working Zones," and use them.

Steps, ladders, handholds, catwalks, or railings shall be provided where necessary for mounting and maintenance purposes on all logging machines. Keep them clean and free of debris.

Machine operators should inspect their machinery each day before starting work to ensure all guards are in place. All repairs and adjustments necessary for safe operation shall be made before operating a machine. Following maintenance, all guards shall be re-installed before operating. Keep all guards in place when the machinery is in operation.

Prepared by the Southwide Safety Committee, Forest Resources Association Inc.