



FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MAHARASHTRA LIMITED

(A Government of Maharashtra Enterprise)

No. Desk-PLN/R&M/FSC/C.R.29/24-25/1107

Dtd: 19 JUL 2024

CIRCULAR

Subject : Comprehensive Guidelines for Health and Safety related to Saw Mill operations.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has formulated its own policy and issued the guidelines regarding the Standard for India for certificate holders (Encl: FSC-STD-IND-01-2022 EN). According to the point number 2.3 of the said document, the organization shall implement Health & Safety practices to protect workers from occupational safety and health hazards. The same were explained during the workshop held on 15th March, 2024 and the comprehensive guidelines for health and safety related to saw mill operations are as follows -

➤ **Safety Measures related to Saw Mill operations**

1. Operators should be equipped with Body Protective gears, like goggles, helmets, gloves, masks, footwear, ear protection device during all time of sawing operations.
2. When handling saw blades, cut resistant gloves made from materials such as kevlar or ballistic nylon should be used.
3. Sawers and cutters must be given training and instruction for safe operation.
4. A slip-resistant good working surface should be provided.
5. Areas should be clear of all obstructions.
6. Precautions should be taken to ensure that dust from stockpiles does not impose on workers or neighbouring properties.
7. Work health and safety training should be regularly conducted at least annually.
8. A first aid box needs to be maintained at work station.
9. An emergency assembly point in a safe location must be marked with a signboard, placed at conspicuous places
10. The emergency response number needs to be provided at conspicuous places.

11. Accidental events and near misses - events that could have caused an injury, illness, or incident - need to be reported, and immediate steps to avoid such incidences need to be taken.
12. Eyewash stations need to be installed to provide immediate relief after an accident.
13. Signboards with adequate display in local vernacular should be installed at appropriate places.
14. Caution should be exercised when using electrical power tools near flammable materials.
15. Adequate lighting should be provided.
16. No live wire or uncovered electric wire should be present on the premises.
17. Stockpiles of sawdust and woodchip should be located away from overhead power lines or sources of combustion and clear of waterways.
18. Woodchip and sawdust stockpiles must be maintained in a manner to eliminate the risk of collapse.
19. Adequate fire-fighting equipment in working condition should be available in the event of a fire.
20. The correct type of grinding wheels should be ensured for the task.
21. Purpose-built racks should be used to store circular saw blades whenever they are not in use. These should be guarded, and if possible, located away from walkways and access routes.
22. Areas where large blades are stored should have restricted access.
23. Old or unused saw blades should not be left unprotected in the work area.
24. Only trained persons should undertake saw sharpening and maintenance.
25. Sharpening and grinding equipment must be properly guarded.
26. Automatic sharpening equipment must be located away from walkways and access routes, with appropriate warning signs and barriers to prevent inadvertent contact. Consider restricting access to the sharpening area.
27. Power tools not in use should be safely stored.
28. Power tools must be used following manufacturer instructions.
29. The tool should be visually inspected for damage before use.
30. Defective tools should be removed from service and tagged as unsafe.
31. Persons not directly involved in cutting operation must be restricted to a safe distance from machines.

32. Machinery should be regularly maintained, and records should be promptly maintained in the maintenance book.
33. Dust around machineries should be removed daily and sent to the dust storage area.
34. The floor area should be clearly marked with lines, Demarcating the area allocated for machine, passageway, storage, and prohibited area.
35. A signboard of Do's and Don'ts must be installed on the premises.
36. Working staff must be briefed about the Do's and Don'ts before they are engaged in operations.


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To,

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