

HAZARD ALERT

INCIDENT WITH SELF-LOADER ON LOGGING TRUCK

RECENT INCIDENT STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION

A recent incident with a logging truck self-loader reinforces the importance of following manufacturer's specifications relating to seatbelt usage. The self-loader in this circumstance was not equipped with a seatbelt and during operation the worker fell from the loader platform. The investigation into the incident is continuing.

While operating a logging truck equipped with a self-loader it remains important for workers to understand and follow manufacturer's requirements as outlined in the owner-operator manual, ensure the proper use of safety devices, and in the case of dated equipment, retrofit for worker safety or implement alternate means of protecting the worker.

HOW COULD IT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?

To ensure effective worker safety and equipment operation, the owner-operator manual for logging truck self-loaders includes the following key instructions.

- Thoroughly read and understand the entire manual.
- Remain seated in the operator's seat while operating the loader.
- Seatbelt must be worn at all times during loader operation.
- Follow all safety rules and practices explained in the manual; safe operation is the responsibility of the operator.

Operators of log trucks with self-loaders must follow the information and guidance provided in the manufacturer's owner-operator manuals at all times. Many employers have additional safety requirements to protect workers, which must also be followed.

If a safety device, such as a seatbelt, is not available due to the age of the equipment, or for any other reason, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure the safety of the worker by providing an alternate method to ensure worker safety. In many cases, seatbelts can be retrofitted and installed on equipment.

Employers are encouraged to discuss owner-operator manual safety requirements with workers to ensure full understanding. Ongoing enforcement of these requirements is essential to ensure the safety of all workers operating this equipment.

