

Operate grapple loader

Overview

This standard is about operating a grapple loader to select produce, load and unload the forwarder. This includes grading, separating and stacking produce for subsequent handling or processing.

This is applicable for loading and unloading with a swing boom grapple in a timber yard or landing.

When working with machinery you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

This standard is only suitable for those who are already competent to operate a base machine with attachments.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement the appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
6. maintain the security of the machinery and equipment on site
7. select, prepare and maintain access and egress routes in a serviceable condition
8. ensure that damage to the work site, any remaining standing trees, tracks, roads, drains and the wider environment is kept within specified limits
9. identify the timber to load and position the base unit to operate the grapple loader
10. select the timber or other products of a size and weight compatible with the capacity of the boom and grapple
11. use the grapple loader safely, effectively and efficiently to lift, manoeuvre and load timber or other products, as applicable
12. use the grapple loader to flush the wood products, as appropriate
13. limit use of the grapple to avoid damage to products, as applicable, when loading and unloading
14. unload products safely, effectively and efficiently onto segregated stacks
15. grade, separate and accumulate products to facilitate their subsequent handling, processing or uplift for onward dispatch
16. meet the relevant legislative and environmental requirements relevant to operating the machine, as well as those of your organisation
17. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
18. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. site procedures including communication systems and emergency planning
5. the types of tools and equipment required and how to maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with the manufacturer's recommendations
6. the legal requirements for checking equipment
7. why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and vehicles on site
8. the current guidelines on machinery operation, risk zones, working at height and safety clearances from overhead electricity conductors, and what to do in the event of contact with power lines
9. the capabilities and limitations of the grapple loader when loading, in relation to maximum safe working load
10. the slope limitations on the loading and unloading operations
11. the methods of loading and unloading long logs, poles or tree lengths
12. the lifting and reach capabilities and height limitations of the machinery used when unloading
13. how to maintain the stability of the machine during unloading and driving
14. how to segregate and grade products to meet the required specification when unloading
15. the safe stacking heights, stability of stacks and signing requirements
16. the use of bearers where appropriate when unloading
17. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
18. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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[Links to other NOS](#) LANTw79

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