

Highlights of some key provisions in the new Division 7, Forest Activities code

Introduction:

Oregon OSHA formed a forest activities advisory committee with representatives from labor, private and government land owners, governmental agencies, original equipment and after-market equipment manufacturers, national and international standard committee members and employer associations. The committee held a series of meetings to review and discuss the existing Forest Activities code (Division 6) starting December 11, 1997 and concluding on July 18, 2002. From those meetings, a new Forest Activities Standard (Division 7) was developed to make the rules more clear and concise for users, update rules to include current technology, eliminate outdated/obsolete rules, provide uniformity between Forest Activities rules and other rules, and address areas not currently addressed. On December 1, 2003, Division 6, Forest Activities, was repealed and Division 7, Forest Activities, became effective. The following preview highlights some of the key provisions of the new code. Be sure to read Division 7 for the specific requirements.

437-007-0004 Applicability of Rules

The Forest Activities rules apply not only to logging but to other operations as well, such as:

- Chemical application
- Chipping
- Clearing and slash disposal
- Fire fighting
- Forest road construction, maintenance and decommissioning
- Log dumps, ponds, plantsite log yards and independent sort yards
- Log hauling
- Marking
- Pulpwood and non-pulpwood logging
- Reforestation/vegetation management
- Stream restoration
- Timber cutting and thinning operations
- Timber cruising

437-007-0025 Definitions

This section contains definitions of terms used in this code. Some key definitions are:

Competent person, Qualified person, Authorized person, Designated person, and Experienced person. Certain sections of the code require the employer to designate or authorize competent or qualified persons for various tasks or work assignments.

A definition of **Potential Failure Zone** is provided to describe the hazardous area personnel must avoid when working around tail and intermediate support trees and standing tree anchors.

437-007-0100 Safety and Health Program

Seven key elements have been identified as essential for a successful safety and health program. These elements have been incorporated into the rules of this section to provide the framework on which the employer can build their safety and health program. The seven elements essential to a successful safety and health program are:

Management commitment	0105
Accountability	0105, 0110
Employee Involvement	0130
Hazard Identification & Control	0135
Accident Investigation	0125
Education & Training	0140
Program Evaluation	0145

The requirements for reporting fatalities and hospitalization to OR-OSHA and preserving the scene of an accident have been included in this section from Division 1, General Administrative Rules.

437-007-0200 Site Plan and Implementation

If the job is going to last more than a day, this section requires the employer to do three things:

- (1) Go to the site before operations start and take a look around. Check out the site conditions and look for any hazards.
- (2) Hold a safety meeting with the employees before they start work. Talk to them about the conditions at the site, any hazards identified, and the emergency medical plan.
- (3) Write down what was discussed and who was at the meeting. This can be the required safety meeting for that month.

437-007-0205 Hazard Identification

Known hazards must be identified with hazard identification ribbon of a standard size and color.

437-007-0210 Checking System

Requires the employer to account for all employees at the end of each work shift, and have a system in place to check the well being of those workers whose jobs may be single employee assignments. A specific person must be assigned to contact the worker and verify when the

contacts were made. Review the checking system at least annually, or more frequently if there is a change in work assignments which affects employee's well being.

437-007-0215 Working Alone

There must be at least two crew members working together where chain saw operation, yarding, loading or a combination of these duties is carried on. Employees may work alone when performing certain jobs which by their nature may be single employee assignments. These include: mechanics, watchers, the operations of motor vehicles, self-loading log trucks, mechanized logging machines, feller bunchers, forwarders, processors, harvesters or excavator-based machines. These employees may work alone, provided the employer has a checking system in place (0210) and an emergency medical plan (0220). Logging machines operated by these employees must meet the requirements of (0775), Protective Structures for Operators.

437-007-0220 Medical Services and First Aid

The employer must have a plan to ensure emergency medical service to employees with major illnesses and injuries. All employees (except truck drivers and watchers who are not involved with falling, yarding or processing logs) must be trained in first aid and CPR at least every two years or as required by a nationally recognized first aid training provider. All supervisors and cutters must be trained before they go to work. All new employees who are not first aid and CPR trained must be given a first aid and CPR briefing before they go to work and receive formal first aid and CPR training within 6 months.

Every worksite must have communication available to reach ambulance service.

437-007-0225 Working Near Unstable Objects and Danger Trees

A competent person must evaluate any danger tree(s) or snag(s) that could fall, roll or slide into a work area to determine if it poses a hazard to personnel. If the tree or snag poses a hazard, it must be felled or the work arranged to minimize danger to workers.

437-007-0230 Powerline Safeguards

Stay 15 feet away from any power line. This means:

- All parts of the machine and material handled by the machine
- Trees can not be cut if they could fall within 15 feet of a power line
- Whipping or recoiling line cannot reduce the required distance

Use a spotter when the machine operator can't tell if they are far enough from the power line.

Notify the power company if you need to work closer or might have trouble maintaining the required clearance. The logger and the power company must develop a safe work plan.

If you make contact with a power line or damage a tower or pole, keep everyone a safe distance away and notify the power company.

437-007-0300 Personal Protective Equipment & Programs

When the employer is required to provide personal protective equipment, it must be at no cost to the employee, unless a specific exception is noted. The employer must pay for:

Head Protection
Eye and Face Protection
Hand Protection
Leg Protection
Hearing Protection
Personal Floatation Devices
Respiratory Protection

The employer is not required to pay for logging boots.

This section contains the requirements for respiratory protection when the operations of machines exposes employees to dusty conditions.

437-007-0410 Fire Extinguishers

After July 1, 2007, fire extinguishers must be 2A:10BC.

437-007-0510 Flagging

Warning signs and a flagger must be placed in advance of active operations on roads where hazardous conditions are created from forest activities. Flaggers must wear a high-visibility vest and use an 18x18 stop slow paddle to control traffic. On state and county roads, traffic control devices and methods must meet the requirements of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUCTD).

437-007-0515 Signs

This section requires signs to be of a standard size, color and lettering, with specific wording to describe the hazard, type of operation or action to be taken. Signs need to be placed a minimum of 300 feet in advance of operations and removed or covered when operations are interrupted for an extended period.

437-007-0520 → 0580 Vehicles

This section contains rules for the safe operation and maintenance of vehicles. The rules were placed in this section from Division 2 N, Oregon Rules for Commercial and Industrial Vehicles

437-007-0600 → 0645 Rigging

Rules for blocks, straps, shackles and other rigging equipment. A competent person must inspect all rigging before use. Strap and shackle sizes and out of service requirements for wire rope. Line cutting and splicing.

437-007-0650 & 0655 Guylines, general requirements & tail trees

0650 contains general requirements for guylines, including size requirements for tail tree guylines. 0655 covers number and placement of tail tree guylines.

437-007-0665 Anchoring

This section contains requirements for stump anchors, standing tree anchors, deadman anchors, artificial earth anchors and using machines as anchors. A competent person must decide what is a suitable anchor and inspect them regularly. Requires the establishment of a “potential failure zone” when using standing tree anchors.

437-007-0675 Selecting, Preparing and Rigging Trees

A competent person must select tail and intermediate support trees.

437-007-0725 Securing Machines (Shut down procedures)

This section requires shut down procedures to prevent the release of stored energy, accidental start up or movement of the machine. The employer must instruct all authorized employees how to use shut down procedures. Follow the requirements of Division 2/J, 1910.147, when it is necessary to control hazardous energy for servicing and maintenance of machines.

437-007-0770, 0775 & 0780 Protective Structures for Operators

There are many new requirements for operator protective structures (cabs) on machines manufactured on or after July 1, 2004. No changes or upgrades are required for machines that are currently in service with protective structures that meet current code requirements except for loaders and similar excavator based machines. These machines have been excluded from the ROPS requirement because they are capable of 360-degree upper structure rotation. The employer may use these machines until July 1, 2009, when at such time the machine must meet the same requirements as those machines manufactured on or after July 1, 2004, or:

- Be limited to use on surfaces that are prepared, excavated or constructed of solid materials with a slope of less than 20 percent when handling logs or other materials, or
- They can be used as anchors for cable yarding systems only when they have a clear path of travel and are limited to slopes of 40 percent or less. You cannot log with these machines after July 1, 2009.

437-007-0920 & 0925 Cable Yarding and Ground Skidding Work Practices

Riding the rigging and/or holding onto the haywire or any other line as it pulls you up the hill is prohibited. The “in the clear” rules have been arranged to fit the process of ground skidding and cable yarding. “Lines under tension” means when:

- Logs are being moved or suspended.
- The rigging or carriage is moving to the landing or returning to the brush.
- Lines are tight-lined to clear up the road.
- Any movement or tightening of the line(s) other than that needed for minor positioning of the rigging or carriage to set chokers.

When there is only one person setting chokers on any cable yarding system, they must:

- Carry transmitters for each signal and control system being used, and
- Be in clear view of the yarder operator or another person with transmitters for each signal and control system being used.

437-007-0927 Working Near Standing Tree Anchors and Tail/Intermediate Support Trees

A competent person must determine the boundaries of the potential failure zone of any tail tree, intermediate support tree and standing tree anchor. The potential failure zone is that area which could be impacted by the failure of any part of a tail tree, intermediate support tree or standing tree anchor as the result of forces or loads imposed on the tree by guylines, running lines or skylines. Personnel must be out of the potential failure zone and in the clear before lines are tensioned. A competent person must instruct personnel in the safe work practices required for working in a potential failure zone.

437-007-0935 Operation of Ground Skidding Machines and Vehicles

Slope restrictions for cats, skidders, feller bunchers, tracked excavators and loaders.

437-007-0940 Signaling and Communications

Standard yarding system whistle signals identified in Appendix 7-A must be used at cable logging operations.

437-007-1060 *Additional Requirements for Log Trucks Equipped With Self-Loaders*

Self-loading log truck operators cannot operate chain saws or yard logs when working alone. They must comply with the Checking System requirements, 437-007-0210, and the Working Alone requirements, 437-007-0215.

437-007-1100 *Log Dumps, Ponds and Yards*

Requirements for removing wrappers from:

- Barrier secured loads, **1120**
- Machine secured loads, **1125**
- Center wrappers from unsecured loads **1130**

437-007-1150 *Trailer Hoists*

Requirements for the construction, inspection and maintenance of log trailer hoists.

437-007-1391 → 1399 *Fire Protection/Suppression and Prescribed Burning*

A Logging Advisory Subcommittee is meeting to revise this section of the code. Until the revision is complete and the new rules adopted, the current rules apply.

Appendices

- 7-A Standard Yarding System Whistle Signals (Mandatory)
- 7-B Double Tree Intermediate Support System
- 7-C Basic Fire Control Training for Loggers – Course Outline
- 7-D Hoisting Personnel Up Metal Spars (Mandatory)
- 7-E Rigging Wooden Spar Trees (Mandatory)
- 7-F Radio Permits and Radio Signal Permit Area Map (Mandatory)
- 7-G Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire (Mandatory)
- 7-H A-Frames and V-Leads (Mandatory)
- 7-I Guyline Positioning (Mandatory)
- 7-J Standard Hand Signals