**Restraining loads to be safe**

**What was the workplace issue?**

Forest growers and timber manufacturing companies became aware of rising numbers of accidents involving haulage trucks that occurred because loads were not appropriately restrained.

**What was the impact of the issue on the workplace?**

The accidents started to occur around the same time as more short rotation plantation logs were being hauled. Short rotation plantation logs have different characteristics to longer plantation logs and are often small in diameter (and slippery) and therefore there are many more logs in a load. This means that loads have different characteristics and should be restrained in different ways.

Recognising that the issue needed to be addressed, ForestWorks supported a team of experts to produce a *Log Haulage Manual*, which includes information about techniques for loading, driving and unloading trucks that carry logs and other forest produce.

**What was the foundation skills gap?**

Interpreting the information in the manual about load restraints systems, and applying it to particular contexts can be complex for those not familiar with specification tables.

This gap is covered by ACSF Numeracy level 3 and 4.

**What is a possible solution?**

A possible solution is to work through training activities that encourage drivers to think about the loads they haul and work out the appropriate restraints for those loads. The activities could be used in a range of contexts, including as part of a formal training program. They should be contextualised to suit State and Territory requirements.

**How could the solution change practices?**

Employers and drivers should be reassured that the loads they haul are safely restrained, and drivers should be able to articulate to compliance officers, how the restraints comply with the performance standards prescribed by Heavy Vehicle National Law (outlined in the Load Restraint Guide).

The *Log Haulage Guide*, together with the accompanying activities are a way of working towards this goal.

**Related documents:**

Activity – Restraining loads to be safe

[Log Haulage Manual](http://www.forestworks.com.au/publications/item/153-log-haulage-manual)