



# Safety Alert

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

## Forest Haulage – Load Security

Featured at the recent FISA summit the issue of 'load security' for round timber haulage raised the need for clarity in the industry.

As a consequence of this the FISA Forest Haulage Working Group called a meeting kindly hosted by JST Services (Scotland) Ltd.

At the meeting representatives came together from FISA, HSE, DVSA, RHA and FLS to review existing guidance (Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice; Department for Transport Code of Practice Safety of Loads on Vehicles 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2002). The interpretation in the DFT 2002 Code of Practice was not clear as recommendation refers to 'barked' roundwood having at least two lashings being required. We confirmed that 'barked' refers to timber with the bark removed.

Ultimately load security is the responsibility of the driver and operator licence holder, it's not as clear as 1 strap or 2 straps (ie a bunk of long length peeled may require 3 straps) and HSE advise it becomes a specific risk assessment. The Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice 4<sup>th</sup> edition is still the baseline document that Operators Licence holders should continue to reference when deciding on strapping options.

The risk assessment becomes the important part and should include consideration of what in your business might cause harm.

You should be able to show from your risk assessment that:

- A proper check was made
  - Is the driver competent?
  - Is the provided work equipment fit for purpose?
- All people who might be affected were considered (this could be the driver of timber truck or the other public road users).
- All significant risks have been assessed >
  - How likely is the load to shift/slip?
  - What is the product to be carried?
  - What is the species to be carried?
  - Does the driver have a safe area of work?
  - What does the Industry Guidance note?
- The precautions are reasonable
- Has the relevant strapping configuration been instructed to the driver?
- The remaining risk is low.

HSE are going to liaise with the Irish Forest and Finnish timber sectors to review any existing research on the matter and will work with FISA on further refinements or guidance if required.