

Notification of hazardous forestry work

There has been some concern and confusion about the notification of hazardous forestry work. Let's look at the legislation and then the practical interpretation of the notification requirements.

Legislation

The Health and Safety in Employment Regulations 1995 require that hazardous work is notified. Notifiable work for forestry is interpreted under the Regulations as:

2. Interpretation:

"Notifiable work" means –

- (b) Any logging operation or tree-felling operation, being an operation that is undertaken for commercial purposes;"

Let's now look at what "logging" and "treefelling" are interpreted as.

"Logging" –

- (a) Means felling trees by manual or mechanical means for the purpose of extracting logs, poles, and posts; and
- (b) Includes extracting logs to an area within a forest for processing and loading out;

"Treefelling" means felling of trees by manual or mechanical means for any purpose –

- (a) Other than extracting logs, poles, and posts; but
- (b) Including the purposes of –
 - (i) Harvesting firewood commercially
 - (ii) Land clearance
 - (iii) Maintaining shelter belts for horticulture
 - (iv) Maintaining or removing trees in the vicinity of overhead power lines
 - (v) Managing and caring for trees in the general community
 - (vi) Silviculture
 - (vii) Willow layering and any other work in catchment or soil erosion operations.

The work to be performed is to be notified in writing to the nearest office of the Occupational and Health Service of the Department of Labour at least 24 hours before the work commences. The following information should be provided in the notification:

- The nature and location of the work.
- The name, address, and contact details of the employer.
- The type of notifiable work.
- The intended date of the commencement of the work.
- The estimated duration of the work.

Interpretation of the Notification Requirements

Obviously, it would be impracticable to require crews to notify in writing at each move from skid to skid, compartment to compartment, or location to location, within a forest or urban or rural district.

In general, in respect to tree-felling and logging operations, notification will be necessary when operations move out of the original notified forest or woodlot or original urban or rural district in the case of arboriculture or maintenance of trees around power lines.

If any work is likely to attract public attention by such things as closing or partial closing of public roads or footpaths or felling or logging trees in areas with high vehicular or foot traffic, contact should be made with the inspector so that he is aware of the situation.

Work of an ongoing nature can be covered by a bulk notification providing the work is of a similar nature over a number of sites. This would cover work such as planned maintenance of rural power lines. Some OSH branches already have systems in place to cover such situations.

– **Occupational, Safety and Health Service, Department of Labour.**



INSTITUTE NEWS



President's comment

1997 marks the anniversary of a number of important dates in the history and development of forestry in New Zealand – the 50th anniversary of the Forest Research Institute, the Centenary of Government involvement in plantation forestry in New Zealand – and 70 years since the incorporation of the New Zealand Institute of Forest(ers). The Council last year briefly considered whether the Institute should mark the occasion in conjunction with the FRI Jubilee celebrations, but opted instead to look toward a 75th anniversary in 2002.

The FRI Jubilee Organising Committee have generously provided for the NZIF Annual General Meeting to be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 1 on the FRI campus. The full afternoon has been set aside for the meeting, to follow the very successful AGM format adopted in Inver-

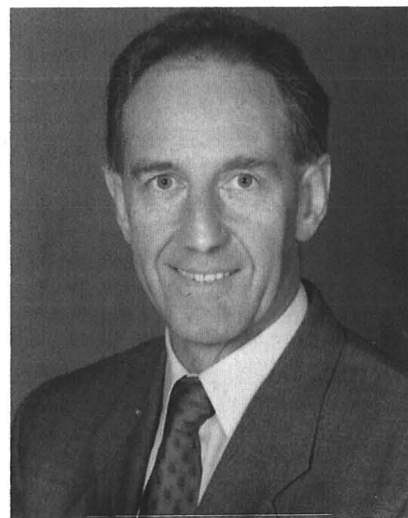
cargill last year, which provided time for good input and debate on the agenda issues.

Local Section Programme and CPD

It is pleasing to see that some local sections are planning professional development opportunities for members within their forward programmes of meetings and activities. This is an excellent way to integrate skills enhancement and continuing learning objectives into the fellowship of local sections.

In a similar vein, the organisers of the ANZIF Conference in Canberra in April have arranged a professional development programme to follow the conference. The programme consists of half-day, one-day and five-day workshops.

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