

Loader Assist Procedures



Trucking & Harvesting Advisory Group

JOB: Loader Placing Wrappers/Binders Over Logs

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the risk of injury to the drivers as a result of throwing wrappers/binders.

HAZARDS: Being struck by logs, wrappers. Loader interaction and proximity. Slip, trip and falls.

When Required: It may be used at the discretion of the log truck driver and loaderman when needed for various reasons such as height of load and driver physical ability. When used, the following procedures **MUST** be followed. **If it is not safe to use loader assist, the driver will move to a safe location and throw the wrappers over manually.**

RULES:

- A safe zone **must** be designated and agreed to by the driver and loader operator prior to starting the loader assist process.
 - Acceptable safe zones are either in front of the cab or a minimum of 5 m away from the rear of the load.
- The driver must always stay in the designated safe zone when the loader is energized (including boom and grapple).
- The truck driver **must** be visible to the loader operator and **never** be on the opposite side of the load from the loader during loader assist operations.

SAFE PROCEDURES:

1. Loaderman finishes loading, puts grapple on ground, in a location clearly visible to driver, idles down machine, engages hydraulic lockout, and radios / signals driver that the loading is complete.
2. Truck driver and loader man will assess the area and load to determine whether it is safe to use loader assist. Some factors to consider: load stability, overhead hazards, slips trips and falls, road surface, road width, steep sideslopes/banks with the potential of something rolling/sliding off and hitting the driver, and the ability for the loaderman to see the driver during the securement process etc.
3. Driver retrieves wrappers and places them through the grapple or puts them in a location where the loader can grab them. The driver then proceeds to the safe zone, establishes eye contact with the loaderman and hand signals to the loaderman that he is in the clear.
4. The loaderman lifts the wrappers over the load and releases them, then places the grapple on ground, idles down the machine and engages the hydraulic lockout.
5. Steps 3 and 4 are repeated for each set of wrappers and/or bunk.
6. Once each bunk has its wrappers on, the driver adjusts the wrappers as required. The driver can wrap up at the loader or can move forward to the closest safe location (assessed by the driver) to finish securing the load.
7. Under no circumstances should the driver adjust or tighten the wrappers of one bunk while another bunk is being loaded.
8. If unsure about anything please stop and seek clarification before proceeding.

It should be noted that under WSBC regulations it is the employer's responsibility to identify, assess, eliminate or reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries to workers