

Loader Assist Procedures



Trucking & Harvesting Advisory Group

JOB: Loader Placing Wrappers / Binders Over Logs

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

Hazards: Being struck by logs, wrappers or loader. Slips, trips and falls. MSI when placing / reaching for wrappers.

When required: The loader-assist procedure can be used at the discretion of the log truck driver and loader operator to reduce risks and overcome challenges such as tall loads, or limitations in driver physical abilities. **If a risk assessment completed by the prime contractor and/or the loader operator and log truck driver determine it is not safe to use loader assist, the driver will move to a safe location and throw the wrappers over manually.**

Rules:

- The driver and the loader operator must designate a safe zone before 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 whenever the loader is energized or moving (includes body, boom and grapple).
- The truck driver **must** be visible to the loader operator whenever the loader is energized.

Safe work procedure:

1. Loader operator finishes loading, puts grapple on ground in a location clearly visible to driver, idles down machine, engages hydraulic lockout, and radios / signals to the driver that loading is complete.
2. Truck driver and loader operator will assess the area and load to determine whether it is safe to use loader assist. Some factors to consider are load stability; overhead hazards; slips, trips and falls (e.g., due to mud, ice, debris), available space, (e.g., road width), steep sideslopes (risk of something rolling / sliding and hitting the driver, and whether the loader operator will be able to see the driver during the securement process etc. If they agree to use the loader-assist process, they follow the steps below.
3. Truck driver retrieves wrappers and places one end of each wrapper through the grapple or puts them in a location where the loader can grab them. The driver then goes to the safe zone, establishes eye contact with the loader operator and hand signals that he/she is in the clear.
4. The loader operator 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. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 for each set of wrappers and/or bunk.
6. Once each bunk has its wrappers on, the loader operator moves the grapple away from the area and de-energizes it, and 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. If unsure about anything please stop and seek clarification before proceeding.

Note: Under WSBC regulations, employers have a responsibility to identify, assess, eliminate or minimize the risk of musculoskeletal injuries to workers.