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**IDAPA 17  
TITLE 08  
CHAPTER 14**

**17.08.14 - IDAHO MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS AND PRACTICES  
FOR LOGGING -- HELICOPTER LOGGING**

**000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 72-508, Idaho Code, the Industrial Commission has the authority to promulgate and adopt reasonable rules for effecting the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act. (7-1-97)

**001. TITLE AND SCOPE.**

These rules shall be cited as IDAPA 17.08.14, "Idaho Minimum Safety Standards and Practices for Logging -- Helicopter Logging," and shall be applicable to the logging industry in the state of Idaho. (7-1-97)

**002. WRITTEN INTERPRETATIONS.**

There are no written statements which pertain to the interpretation of these rules. (7-1-97)

**003. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.**

There are no provisions for administrative appeal of these rules. The procedure for appeals in safety matters is prescribed by Sections 72-714 and 72-718 through 72-722, Idaho Code. (7-1-97)

**004. -- 008. (RESERVED).**

**009. DEFINITIONS.**

For definitions refer to IDAPA 17.08.01, "Idaho Minimum Safety Standards and Practices for Logging -- General Provisions," Section 007. (7-1-97)

**010. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

Safety requirements are as follows: (7-1-97)

**01. Briefings.** Prior to each day's operation, a briefing shall be conducted. This briefing shall set forth the daily plan of operation for the pilot and ground personnel. (7-1-97)

**02. Personal Protective Equipment.** Personal protective equipment for employees receiving the load shall consist of as a minimum complete eye protection and hard hats secured by chinstraps. (7-1-97)

**03. Loose-Fitting Clothing.** Loose-fitting clothing likely to flap in the downwash, and perhaps be snagged on the hoist line, shall not be worn. (7-1-97)

**04. Reduced Visibility.** When visibility is reduced by dust or other conditions, ground personnel shall keep clear of main and stabilizing rotors. (7-1-97)

**05. Unauthorized Personnel.** No unauthorized person shall be allowed to approach within fifty (50) feet of the helicopter when the rotor blades are turning. (7-1-97)

**06. Approaching or Leaving Helicopter.** All employees approaching or leaving a helicopter with blades rotating shall remain in full view of the pilot and remain in a crouched position. (7-1-97)

**07. Areas to Avoid in Helicopter.** Employees shall avoid the area from the cockpit or cabin rearward unless authorized by the helicopter operator to be there. (7-1-97)

**08. Approach and Departure Zones.** Helicopter approach and departure zones shall be designated and no equipment or personnel will occupy these areas during helicopter arrival or departure. (7-1-97)

**09. External Loads.** Helicopters with an external load shall not pass over areas where fallers are working. (7-1-97)

**10. Open Fires.** Open fires shall not be permitted in an area that could result in such fires being spread by rotor downwash. (7-1-97)

**11. Compliance with FAA Regulations.** Helicopters shall be expected to comply with any applicable regulation of the Federal Aviation Administration. (7-1-97)

**12. Protective Precautions.** Every practical precaution shall be taken to provide for the protection of employees from flying objects in the rotor downwash. (7-1-97)

**011. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**

**01. Signal Systems.** (7-1-97)

**a.** Signal systems between air crew and ground personnel shall be understood and checked before hoisting the load. This applies to either radio or hand signal systems. (7-1-97)

**b.** There shall be constant reliable communication between the pilot and a designated signalman during the period of loading and unloading. (7-1-97)

**c.** The helicopter shall be equipped with a siren to warn workers of hazardous situations. (7-1-97)

**02. Loading Logs.** (7-1-97)

**a.** It shall be the responsibility of the firm, supervisor, or person who is in charge of the actual loading operation to comply with the Section in these rules applicable to log loading. (7-1-97)

**b.** The helicopter operator shall be responsible for the size, weight and manner in which loads are attached to the helicopter. If, for any reason, the helicopter operator believes the lift cannot be made safely, the lift shall not be made. (7-1-97)

**c.** When employees are required to perform work under hovering aircraft, a safe means of access shall be provided for employees to reach the hoist line hook and engage or disengage cargo slings. (7-1-97)

**d.** Employees shall not work under hovering aircraft except while hooking or unhooking loads. (7-1-97)

**e.** The weight of an external load shall not exceed the manufacturer's rating. (7-1-97)

**f.** The hook-up crew shall not work on slopes below felled and bucked timber when an unsafe situation exists. Culls left, that have a potential of rolling, should be moved to a safe position. (7-1-97)

**03. Loading and Landing Areas.** (7-1-97)

**a.** The minimum dimensions of a drop zone shall be determined by the length of the logs being hauled. All zones shall be at least one and one-half (1 1/2) times as long, and as wide as the length of the average log being harvested. (7-1-97)

**b.** Landing or loading machinery shall be a reasonable distance away from where logs are to be landed. (7-1-97)

**c.** Landing crew shall be in the clear before logs are landed. (7-1-97)

**d.** The approach to the landing shall be clear and long enough to prevent tree tops from being pulled onto the landing. (7-1-97)

**e.** Separate areas shall be designated for landing logs and fueling helicopters. (7-1-97)

- f.** Sufficient ground personnel shall be provided for safe helicopter loading and unloading operations. (7-1-97)
- g.** A clear area shall be maintained in all helicopter loading and unloading areas. (7-1-97)
- h.** Emergency landing areas for injured workers shall be located within a reasonable distance from all working areas. (7-1-97)
- 04. Hooks and Chokers.** (7-1-97)
- a.** The electrical activating device of all electrically operated cargo hooks shall be designed and installed to prevent inadvertent operation. In addition, these cargo hooks shall be equipped with an emergency mechanical control for releasing the load. (7-1-97)
- b.** Logs will be laid on the ground and the helicopter completely free of the chokers before workers approach the logs. (7-1-97)
- c.** One (1) end of all the logs in the turn shall be touching the ground and at an angle no greater than forty-five (45) degrees before the chokers are released. (7-1-97)
- d.** If the load must be lightened, the hook shall be placed on the ground on the uphill side of the turn before the hooker approaches to release the excess logs. (7-1-97)

**012. -- 999. (RESERVED).**

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