



## Zero Harm Hazard Alert

### Mobile phones and timber harvesting equipment

As with the operation of a motor vehicle, the use of a mobile phone in machinery is a distraction to the operator and may lead to accidents and injury.

The use of mobile phones in machinery has been an item of concern for some time and has been discussed by the Harvest and Haulage OH&S Committee where the following was agreed:

- Mobile Phones must not be used by contractors or their staff while they are operating equipment related to timber harvesting. The use of a mobile phone is already outlawed by legislation in relation to motor vehicles which, of course, includes trucks.
- This Hazard Alert applies to all commonly used timber harvesting equipment, including but not limited to mechanical harvesters, excavators including those modified for tree felling, processing equipment, skidders, forwarders and bulldozers.

The soon to be released update of the VicForests utilisation procedures will reflect the VicForests position.

Please discuss with your crew the dangers of operating mobile phones in machinery. and what rules you are going to put into place to address this hazard.

Your Safety Management System should be amended to address this hazard.

Each case of an operator being found using a mobile phone whilst operating plant, should be brought to the attention of the relevant VicForests contract manager to be dealt with.

