

WorkSafe Services

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Services de travail sécuritaire

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January 24, 2005

”The Employer“

The Chief Compliance Officer is writing in reply to the employer’s letter dated October 22, 2004 requesting a deviation from Regulation 91-191 section 224(f) that states:

An employer shall ensure that powered mobile equipment is equipped with an audible back-up alarm that operates automatically when the equipment is in reverse and that is clearly audible above the background noise.

The employer’s deviation request is specific to owner’s premises. The employer’s letter indicates that there has been a concern raised from a neighbor of the facility that the noise from the audible back-up alarm on the front-end loader is too loud and bothers them at night. The employer’s letter also gives a description of what the situation involves as well as the steps the employer would take to ensure the employees safety and ensure good relationships with the neighbors.

The site:

- The site in question has a sawmill, dry kilns and a white pine value added center. There is a main government road that cuts through the middle of the site as well.
- There are houses in the vicinity of the site ranging in distance from 200 – 1000 feet.
- There is only one loader working at night, between the sawmills green chain and the kilns. At rare times there may be 2 loaders working when there is a second shift added at the planer.
- There is nobody working in the yard at night, but there are 8-10 people working on the green chain. The only time that they would be out in the yard would be during their break when the loader would also be on break.

Process change:

- The loader(s) in question would be installed with an automated device which would switch the loader from the audible back up alarm warning to a warning light(s) at a predetermined time.
- All employees working in the yard at night would be required to wear a highly reflective safety vest.
- A policy for working in the yard at night would be developed and communicated to all employees on site as well as all machine operators at a formal safety meeting. This would ensure that the new system would afford the same degree of safety to the employees as the back-up alarm did.
- Signs would be erected throughout the site stating that loaders do not have an audible back up alarm at night, and that verbal or hand signals must be clearly communicated before passing by or entering into the vicinity of a loader.
- The process would be closely monitored in its inception to capture any hazards of Unforeseen Dangers, and eliminating or resolving these issues would be given the highest of priorities.

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Based on the information provided, a deviation from 91-191 Section 224(f) is granted between the hours of 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM and provided that all of the proposed process changes are implemented as stated.

By copy of this letter, the Chief Compliance Officer has advised WHSCC staff of the decision.

Regards,

Chief Compliance Officer