

HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING – FORESTRY OPERATIONS 2012 GUIDELINES

To: Forest Garment Manufacturers:

Invitation to participate in the Forest Owners Association Hi-Visibility Clothing Guideline Scheme.

You may be aware that the Forest Owners Association has since 2004 had a guideline outlining the specifications for high visibility clothing used by those engaged in forest silviculture and harvesting operations. This is an update to the guidelines incorporating more recent A/NZ Standard specifications.

The current regulations provide for an industry to develop specifications for high visibility clothing which meet that particular industry's needs.

In regard to forestry operations in New Zealand, the industry determined that the current Australasian Standards were not appropriate for forestry operations that require garments which avoid creating excessive body heat, are capable of long wear in physically demanding outside work without rapid fading, meet the requirements for high visibility, and are reasonably priced. In addition, a reduced range of colours are accepted, recognising study results that indicate colour blindness should be taken into account when selecting colours for use in the forest.

The industry has now agreed that the garment specified in the **attached** Guideline meets the criteria above.

We do not consider that it is either necessary or desirable to seek formal Standards New Zealand approval for these guidelines which are accepted by OSH as a satisfactory industry guideline.

To achieve a high quality of garment, FOA have instituted a system of voluntary registration for garment manufacturers. This voluntary registration scheme operates as follows:

1. Garment manufacturers interested in participating in the voluntary registration scheme are invited to submit garments for testing to the New Zealand Wool Testing Authority (NZWTA), noting they are to be tested against the New Zealand Forestry Guidelines for High Visibility Clothing. Once a verification report is received from the NZWTA, a copy should be forwarded to the NZ Forest Owners Association requesting issuance of a registration number.

Send garment and fee to:

New Zealand Forestry Guidelines for High Visibility Clothing
Lorraine Greer

Testing Manager

NZWTA

Cnr Bridge & Lever Streets

PO Box 12065

Ahuriri, NAPIER

T (+64) 6 835 1086

F (+64) 6 835 6473

DDI (+64) 6 833 5621

2. If the NZWTA approve the garment, it will provide the manufacturer with written advice to that effect. (refer attached sample verification report).
3. On receipt of the advice from the NZWTA, the manufacturer will write to the NZ Forest Owners Association attaching a copy of the NZWTA verification report and seek (on the attached registration form) voluntary registration as a manufacturer of approved high visibility forest garments.
4. On receipt of evidence that the particular garment met the specification in the guidelines, the Forest Owners Association will issue the manufacturer with its registration number.
5. The manufacturer would be responsible for producing the garment to the approved guideline and for noting on the garment in a legible form the manufacturer's registration number. This could take the form of a label or be printed on the garment itself.
6. Each manufacturer will be responsible for ensuring that each garment carrying the above label met the approved Guidelines.
7. The Association accepts no responsibility for monitoring the adherence to the approved Guidelines. However, if complaints were received about the quality of garments produced by a particular manufacturer, and these complaints were found to be valid either in respect to the colour or colour coverage, the Association reserves the right to cancel the manufacturer's registration.
8. In addition, failure to meet the guideline could expose the manufacturer to possible OSH action if the substandard garment was considered to be the cause of an accident to the wearer.
9. Garments already accepted under the Forest Owners Hi Visibility Clothing Scheme prior to the updated 2012 guidelines, continue to be approved and do not need to be resubmitted.

It should be clearly noted that the fact a particular garment manufacturer is registered is not a guarantee that his/her garments will continue to meet the Guideline requirements once the garment has left the factory. The responsibility will remain with the employer to ensure that particular garments continue to meet the employer's responsibility to take all practical steps to protect their employees from unsafe working conditions.

In summary, if your company is interested in participating in this voluntary forestry garment high visibility registration scheme, please:

- A. Submit a sample of your garment to the NZWTA along with the required fee.

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F (+64) 6 835 6473
DDI (+64) 6 833 5621

- B. Upon receipt of the verification report, send a copy of the report and request for registration to the Forest Owners Association:

Attention: Glen Mackie
Senior Policy Analyst
NZ Forest Owners Association
P O Box 10986, Wellington 6143
Ph: 04 4734769 Fax: 04 4998893
Email: glen.mackie@nzfoa.org.nz

- C. Upon receipt of the verification report FOA will issue you with a registration number.

Yours sincerely



Glen Mackie
Senior Policy Analyst