

To All Association Members

LOG TRUCK SAFETY 0800 NUMBER

As members will be aware, for some time the Association has been extremely concerned at the unacceptably high incidence of log truck accidents including rollovers.

We have been working very closely with other relevant organisations and agencies on initiatives to improve the current situation. These initiatives include:

1. The introduction of a more visible 0800 plate on logging trucks and trailers.
2. The introduction of a policy for unsafe drivers to be temporarily stood down.
3. The development of a Log Transport Safety Accord supported by the Association, Road Transport Forum, Log Transport Safety Council and Farm Forestry Association.
4. The development of a Log Truck Safety Rating Scheme to record and publicise the relative safety performance of individual trucking operators.

All of these measures are important in improving the safety performance of the industry.

Members will be aware that the Land Transport Safety Authority has released for public comment proposals to increase the weight of trucks to either 50 tonnes or 62 tonnes.

Obviously a concern of the general public to proposals to increase the maximum weights of trucks revolves around their perceptions of the safety to other road users. It is the industry's view that the provisions relating to any increased weights would not result in higher threats to safety; in fact the reverse could be true.

As an increase in logging truck maximum weights would provide significant benefits to the forest industry, it is extremely important that the industry actively promotes all practical measures to improve the safety of logging trucks. Hence, the Association's strong support for the measures noted above.

In respect to the logging truck public reporting scheme, we urge all Association members to insist that their particular log truck operator(s) have the new 0800 plates displayed on their vehicles by 31 December 2001. These new plates are larger than the 'old' plates and have the following wording "0800 LOGTRUCK".

To assist the Association in assessing the extent to which logging truck operators have already fixed the new plates to their trucks, or propose to do so by 31 December, we would be grateful if members would complete and return the attached questionnaire.

Thanks for your assistance.

Regards

Rob McLagan
Chief Executive