



FLEGT Compliance in Ghana

Guide on Safety and Health Practices for Loggers.

“Unless and until the employer has done everything – and everything means a good deal – the workman can do next to nothing to protect himself although he is naturally willing to do his bit.” - Sir Thomas Legge, 1929

“All workmen should be told something of the danger of the materials they come into contact with and not be left to find it out for themselves – sometimes at the cost of their lives.” - Sir Thomas Legge, 1930

There are a variety of reasons to improve occupational safety and health on humane grounds. These include the prevention of suffering, maintenance of quality of life, and a fundamental belief that nobody should have to risk life and limb in return for employment (FAO (2020). Health and safety in the forest is so fundamental that the lack of it causes fatal injuries and a violation of the fundamental human rights of the worker (see *Article 24 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana*). In addition, the subsidiary legislation LI 2254 requires forestry companies to make sufficient provisions to meet the health and safety requirements of workers.

Loggers without processing facilities begin the timber transformation process from the forest floor until the logs are handed over to millers for onward processing and yet many of them have little understanding and appreciation of the critical requirements along the timber supply chain. As implementers and beneficiaries of the FLEGT-VPA processes, the understanding and compliance of this category of loggers in the timber industry are crucial in the eventual success of FLEGT-VPA in Ghana.

To ensure compliance to FLEGT-VPA, Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) under the FAO EU FLEGT Programme funded project titled **“FLEGT Compliance: Developing the capacity of Loggers without Processing Mills”** developed this Health and Safety infographic guide to aid loggers without sawmills to conform to the requirements of the Health and Safety as prescribed by the Ghana Forestry Commission Logging Manual.



This guide outlines the “Dos and Don’ts for Health and Safety” from the point of felling timber, hauling logs, loading and transportation of logs in the supply of legal timber to both domestic and international markets.



Module 1 : Stock Survey / Felling Team



DOs

	1	Chainsaw operators and other team members should wear safety/wellington boots at all times when working in the forest.
	2	Chainsaw operators and other workers should wear hard helmets to reduce injuries caused by falling objects.
	3	All team members should wear high visibility jackets when going to work in the forest.
	4	All workers must stay in visual or audible contact with other team members to avoid loss of employees.
	5	All stock survey and felling crew should watch out for slippery sloppy terrains and abandoned ditches to avoid falls and injuries.
	6	Chainsaw operators should always wear goggles when felling trees to prevent debris from entering eyes.
	7	Chainsaw operators should always use nose mask when felling trees to prevent inhalation of Co.
	8	Chainsaw operators should always use ear plugs when felling tree to prevent excessive noise.
	9	Chainsaw operators should always use hand gloves when felling trees to protect them from tree poisons.
	10	The felling team should erect visual warning signs at vantage points before felling starts.


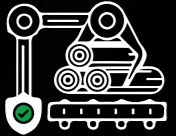





DON'Ts






	1	Forest workers should not walk bare footed in the forest.
	2	Forest workers should not work in the forest without wearing a helmet.
	3	No forest worker should enter the forest to work without wearing a high visibility jacket.
	4	All workers should not stay far away from each other.
	5	Do not walk in the forest without paying attention to abandoned ditches and steep slopes.
	6	Chainsaw operators should not fell trees without wearing goggles.
	7	Chainsaw operators should not operate a chainsaw machine without wearing a nose mask.
	8	Chainsaw operators should not operate a chainsaw machine without ear plugs.
	9	Chainsaw operators should not fell/touch trees without wearing appropriate hand gloves.
	10	Felling team should not start felling without visual warning signs being erected at vantage points.

Module 2 : Hauling



DOs	
	<p>1 Hauling team should create appropriate hauling routes before hauling.</p>
	<p>2 Hauling operators should use the right machine for hauling.</p>
	<p>3 All hauling crew should wear helmets during hauling.</p>
<p>MATCH</p> 	<p>4 Hauling crew should make sure winching equipment appropriately match the capacity of the machine.</p>
	<p>5 Only operate hauling equipment such as skidders, bulldozers in designated areas.</p>



DON'Ts	
	<p>1 Hauling team should not haul without creating appropriate hauling routes.</p>
	<p>2 Hauling equipment operators should not use an inappropriate machine for hauling.</p>
	<p>3 Operators should not operate any hauling machine without wearing a helmet.</p>
<p>NO MATCH</p> 	<p>4 Hauling team should not use winching equipment that do not match the capacity of the machine.</p>
	<p>5 Operators should not operate hauling machines such as skidder, bulldozer in active felling areas.</p>

Module 3 : Loading and Transportation



DOs	
	1 All loading team members should stay at a safer area during loading.
	2 Workers should wear prescribed PPEs during loading.
 INSPECT	3 Loading crew members should ensure load binding equipment e.g. chains and tensioners are in working order before use.
	4 Truck drivers should ensure log loads be restrained by lashings capable of holding the load weight and secured to comply with safety regulations.
 INSPECT	5 Before moving trucks, drivers should scan the surroundings to ensure no person is sitting on any part of the truck.
	6 Drivers must observe road rules at all times including road warning signs.
	7 Loading operators should select machines capable of lifting the logs to be loaded.
 INSPECT	8 Before unloading, the driver should inspect the load for signs of movement to avoid injury from falling logs.



DON'Ts	
	1 Workers should not trespass the safer area during loading.
	2 Workers should not go near the loading area without wearing the prescribed PPEs.
	3 Loading crew should not use binding equipment such as chains and lashings until they are inspected to be working properly
	4 Drivers should not move truck until logs are properly secured with appropriate lashings.
	5 Drivers should not move loaded trucks without ensuring that no worker is loitering around the area.
	6 Drivers should not drive recklessly without observing road rules and signs.
	7 Loading team should not use man power to load logs.
	8 Drivers should not unload logs without checking for signs of movement to avoid injury.

About Nature and Development Foundation

Nature & Development Foundation (NDF) was born out of the long presence of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Ghana and across the West African region. The WWF West Africa Regional Office was based in Abidjan since the mid-70s until 2005 when the office was relocated to Ghana. Since 2009 the WWF team in Accra focused on forest and trade related activities as a part of the WWF International Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) programme.

In the past decade the team has built up a set of global expertise and has successfully worked closely with governments, communities and leading companies within and outside the region. In 2013 WWF decided that a local NGO would be better equipped to work on forest and related conservation issues across the region in the long term, and chose to assist in the creation of a new, local NGO. With the support of WWF, the Nature & Development Foundation (NDF) was created.

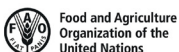
NDF was legally established in November 2013 in Ghana as a non-profit organisation limited by guarantee. NDF is proud of its WWF heritage and will continue its association with WWF as it develops further. NDF's cooperation agreement with WWF International seek to collaborate with the WWF Global Forest Programme on issues which are of interest to both organisations. NDF also has Memoranda of Understanding with the Forestry Services Division and the Resources Management Support Center of the Forestry Commission on forest management development in Ghana.

For over five (5) years, Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) has been working to ensure legality compliance within the timber industry in Ghana and the West African sub-region. Actions have been geared towards curbing illegal logging by restricting the market for illegally sourced wood. NDF trains and assists Small Medium Forest Enterprises and companies in the timber sector of Ghana to organize their internal systems to meet regulatory requirements. NDF's efforts are contributing to halt further degradation of forests and loss of biodiversity in Ghana and across West Africa.

The content of this document is the sole responsibility of the author and may in no way be taken to reflect the opinion of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Commission (EC), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) or the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

This infographic guide is funded by:

FAO - EU FLEGT PROGRAMME



Nature and Development Foundation (NDF)
Centre for African Wetlands Building
University of Ghana, Legon
PMB L45, Legon,
Accra, Ghana

+233 (0) 30 290-3359

info@ndfwestafrica.org

www.ndfwestafrica.org

