

# SAFETY ALERT

## POORLY BUILT LOADS ARE A RISK FOR LOG HAULAGE

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### What happened:

Non-compliant loads of logs were reported by concerned members of the public in two separate recent incidents. In both cases, loading had taken place pre-dawn; in one case it was raining.

Neither loaders nor drivers noticed these loads were not properly constructed, crowned and restrained before leaving the landings. Neither driver properly re-checked their load before entering public roads. In both cases, loaders and drivers were experienced and had successfully completed the mandatory training and inductions provided by their employers - companies that aspire to high safety standards.

FPC investigations concluded the root cause was complacency on the part of the individual operators and drivers.

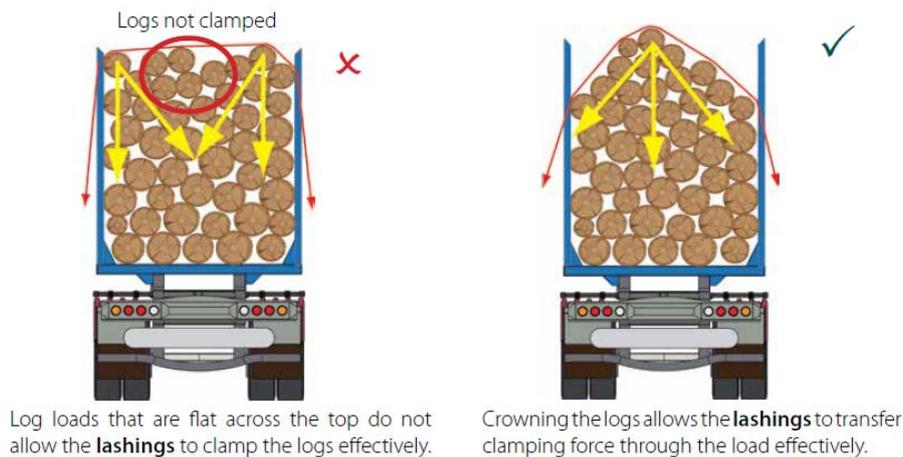
### Risks from inadequate loads:

Poorly constructed and inadequately restrained loads increase the risk of accidents for both trucks and other road users. There is increased risk of:

- Logs falling off the road-train, posing a lethal hazard to other road users;
- Load movement on cornering, increasing the risk of truck/trailer roll-over.

Log trucks are the public face of the timber industry. Insecure loads increase risks to all road-users and undermine public support for the timber industry.





### Responsibility for Load Construction and Restraint:

Both these loads breached the applicable National Transport Commission [Load Restraint Guide 2004](#) (s4.3). Under the Chain of Responsibility provisions of the WA Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012, loader operators and truck drivers share legal responsibility for constructing and restraining loads.

Drivers are also responsible for checking every load before entering the public road system. If they discover a load is non-compliant, they should not continue the trip until the problem is corrected.

### Complacency can Kill:

Most workplace accidents are caused by **human factors**, rather than by technology or equipment faults. Complacency is one human factor - along with boredom, fatigue, haste, stress, divided attention, and adverse environmental conditions - that have the potential to take your mind off the job – with potentially lethal results.

Loaders and drivers are paid to maintain a professional and responsible attitude towards all aspects of log haulage. This means making sure your attention is on the job.

### Good work techniques to ensure safe loads:

- Adopt a team-work approach to loading trucks; maintain communications.
- Take the time to do the job thoroughly – don't rush and cut corners.
- Double-check when loading in adverse environmental conditions
- Trucks should never depart the landing until both loader and driver are satisfied that the load conforms to the [Guideline](#).
- Drivers always re-check loads before entering public roads and highways.
- Make best practice routines a personal habit. Safe work routines will help compensate when your mind goes off-task.