

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



MACHINE INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Number: 119

Date: 4/12/2023

Background

On 28 November, during a routine safety inspection a harvesting machine was stood down due to marguard damage. There were chips and scars evident on more than one panel, the damage had not been reported.

The NIFPI Development of best practice guidance for protective guarding of mobile plant used in Australian forests (2022) states:

Polycarbonate sheeting (i.e., Lexan® or Marguard) is commonly used in the forest industry. This is an integral component in the safety structure of the machine and must be inspected, cleaned, maintained, and repaired, where required, strictly within manufactures recommendations. As even minor damage and imperfections can significantly decrease the ability of the polycarbonate to provide the required protection and therefore should be replaced after a recorded impact incident or upon the identification of minor damage during maintenance inspections. In general terms, unless recommended otherwise by the manufacturer, if there is any visible marks or cracks or if the screen is more than five years old the screen should be replaced.

Key points

- Routine maintenance and inspections must be completed on machinery, including paying attention to marguard damage. Damage needs to be reported and fixed in line with the above NIFPI best practice guideline.
- Pre-start checklists should include inspection of condition of marguard and glass.