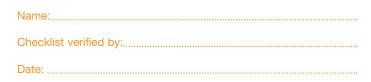
MANUAL HANDLING AND STACKING 13 Follow best practice when manual handling. 14 Use appropriate aid tools for lifting and moving timber. eg pulp hooks, lifting tongs, cant hooks and pickaroons. 15 Stack cut material frequently so that it does not create a hazard underfoot. 16 Stacks of timber should always be made and maintained in a stable condition. Do not stack on steep ground at the roadside. ☐ 17 Where stacks are manually produced, the height of the stacked timber should not exceed about 1m. Otherwise. so far as is reasonably practicable, stack heights should not exceed 2m. 18 Take special care in areas frequented by the public. Where appropriate, although not a substitute for safe stacking, a warning sign conforming to the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 should be displayed, and/or the site enclosed with hazard warning tape. NOTES

FURTHER READING

Using petrol-driven chainsaws	FISA301
Basic chainsaw felling and manual takedown	FISA302
Chainsaw snedding	FISA303
Chainsaw clearance of windblow	FISA306
Chainsaw felling of large trees	FISA307
Use of winches in directional felling and takedown	FISA310
Emergency planning	FISA802
Electricity at work: Forestry	FISA804
First aid at work: Your questions answered	INDG214
Managing health and safety in forestry	INDG294
Chainsaws at work	INDG317
Don't lose your hearing	INDG363

These publications are available from the FISA and HSE websites.



Further information

This guide is produced by the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA) 59 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2JG Tel: 0131 240 1410 Fax: 0131 240 1411 Email: info@ukfisa.com

Copies of this guide and all other FISA priced and free publications are available by mail order from the FISA office or through the FISA website www.ukfisa.com. From here you will also be able to access a wide range of additional forestry safety information including frequently updated safety alerts.

This guide sets out evidence of good practice for a specific forestry task. Deviation from the guide should only be considered after a full risk assessment has been undertaken by competent persons. Health and safety obligations MUST be met at all times.

THINK SAFE / STAY SAFE

This publication is based on guidance previously published by HSE in AFAG304 Chainsaw cross-cutting and manual stacking, which was withdrawn in 2013.

For more general information about health and safety, please visit the Health and Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk

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Chainsaw cross-cutting and manual stacking



FISA Safety Guide 304

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet covers the safe working practices to be used when cross-cutting and stacking timber. For guidance on personal protective equipment (PPE), the machine, preparing to work, maintenance, fuelling and starting procedures see FISA leaflet 301 *Using petrol-driven chainsaws*.

You can use this leaflet, along with the chainsaw manufacturer's handbook, as part of the risk assessment process to help identify the controls to put in place when cross-cutting and stacking.

You must also assess the effect of the site and the weather as well as following this guidance.

All operators must have had appropriate training in how to operate the machine and how to carry out the tasks required

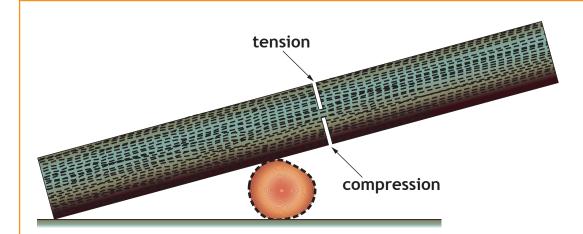
PREPARING TO CROSS-CUT AND STACK

- 1 Clear any debris that is likely to interfere with the crosscutting process.
- 2 Plan the work so that the lightest produce moves furthest.
- 3 Use bearers or other supports where possible.
- 4 Ensure the work area gives a good firm footing.
- □ 5 A length of timber should only be broken down into sections by one person at any one time.
- ☐ 6 Ensure that a safe working distance is maintained between workers (at least 5m) and between workers and machinery (outside the risk zone of the machines being used).





- Figure 2: Start of boring cut
- 7 Maintain a secure and balanced stance.
- 8 When cross-cutting on slopes, work on the uphill side of logs if there is a risk of the timber rolling.
- 9 Reduce excessive tension by first making a cut on the compression side of the log (see Figure 1).
- 10 When it is necessary to use a boring cut, do not start with the tip of the guide bar and ensure that it does not strike other stacked material as this can cause kickback (see Figure 2).
- □ 11 If the chainsaw jams, switch it off. Pull the chainsaw gently to see if it can be dislodged, otherwise use the correct aid tools to open the cut.
- 12 Be ready to step back quickly if the log being cut starts to roll.



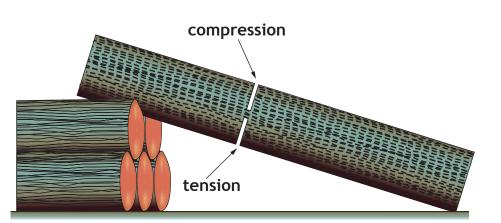


Figure 1: Identification of tension and compression wood