

Working in the forestry industry – short version

Systematic Work Environment Management

The purpose of our Work Environment Act is to prevent injury at work. As an employer, you must consider all conditions that could affect your employees' health and safety. You are responsible for the work environment of everyone working for you.

Amendments concerning the use of chainsaws and brushcutters

Regulations for the use of chainsaws and brushcutters can be found in the new provision, AFS 2012:1 – which came into force on 1 December 2012. At the same time, AFS 2000:2 'Use of chainsaws and brushcutters' was repealed.

Four major changes in provision AFS 2012:1

- Requirement for documented proficiency in the form of completed theoretical and practical examinations. The employer has until 1 January 2015 to meet the requirements for completed examinations.
- Anyone found to be infringing the provisions pertaining to documented proficiency after 1 January 2015 will be charged a penalty payment of SEK 10,000.
- Requirement for high visibility clothing. High visibility clothing is a form of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) providing good visibility both during the day and at night. The employer is responsible for ensuring that the high visibility clothing meets the applicable requirements. (high visibility clothing manufactured in accordance with standard SS EN 471 meets the requirements.)
- Protective footwear with saw protection.

Being prepared for the worst

A person with expertise in the matter who can administer first aid as well as first aid equipment must be on hand. Employees must know how to alert an ambulance or other emergency vehicles and be able to provide a clear description of the route to the site of the injury, sometimes with the help of a coordinator.

Solitary Work

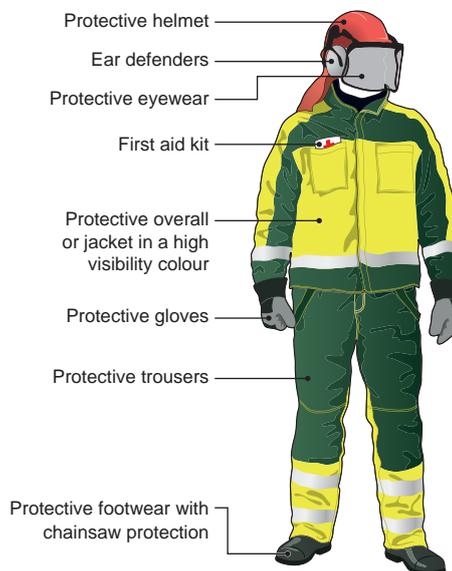
In the case of Solitary Work in a forest, there are special requirements pertaining to communication with others. A supervisors or colleague must know the location of the person working in the forest. Work in windthrown forest may not be carried out alone; the person must be in direct contact with a colleague or another person.

Personnel spaces

Personnel spaces are required both for reasons of comfort and in order to minimise the risk of ill health. During a working day, personnel must have the opportunity to go to the toilet, wash their hands with hot water, heat and consume food, sit down in a heated area, have space to change and have the possibility to dry their clothes. Personnel spaces should be within walking distance.

Personal Protective Equipment

An individual working with a chainsaw must use the following PPE:



Chemical risks when planting and spraying saplings

When you come into contact with a chemical substance, you may be harmed immediately or fall ill at a much later stage. In order to avoid the risk of work-related illnesses, you should obtain information about the substance and use protective equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The Swedish Work Environment Authority's pamphlet "Säkert arbete med behandlade skogsplantor och vid besprutning efter plantering" [Safety when handling saplings and spraying after planting] contains more information. Note that in accordance with AFS 2012:3, minors may not work with class 1 or 2 pesticides. Nor are they permitted to plant saplings treated with these pesticides.

Who is permitted to work with chainsaws?

The individual must have undergone a theoretical and practical examination showing that he or she has a proficiency corresponding to the task at hand. The person must also have documentation proving that they meet the requirements.

Who is permitted to work with brushcutters?

In order to work with a brushcutter, the individual must have undergone training for the type of work that is to be carried out and have proficiency for the work.

Maintain respect for falling trees

Every year there are several fatal accidents when felling trees.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority's website

Our website has the latest version of all applicable regulations, information pamphlets and books that can help to create a good work environment.