



IGO GROUP SAFETY STANDARD 31 - TREE FELLING

INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL





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1. INTENT

This standard details the requirements to minimise and control the hazards associated with the manual felling of individual trees and small groups of trees.

2. APPLICATION

This standard applies only to tree felling using a method that requires the operator to stand at the base of the tree to execute the felling. It does not cover the extraction (e.g. forwarding, skidding, snigging, shovel logging and cable logging) of felled trees away from the fall zone.

Any tree felling operation that requires the assistance of mobile plant or explosives, or personnel to climb trees, or to work from a ladder, scaffold or elevated work platform or similar shall only be performed by expert external contractors.

This standard shall apply to all IGO sites and projects (exploration, construction and development) and to all IGO employees, contractors (including sub-contractors) and visitors to IGO sites and projects. All IGO sites and projects shall comply with the provisions of this standard and all relevant legislative requirements for the location.

Where this standard identifies Australian and New Zealand Standards, IGO's international sites and projects shall ensure any other standards relevant to the location meet the minimum requirements established through this standard.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

Each site and project shall undertake a risk assessment for tree felling prior to any tree felling activities taking place. The risk assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the **CMS ST-03 Risk Management**.

JSEAs shall be undertaken by the members of the work party for each tree felling and lopping activity and shall include assessment of the area (e.g. of factors such as the terrain, weather conditions, holes, hung up trees / branches, stags, animals and insects, operation of machinery in the fall zone).

4. WORK PERMITTING AND APPROVAL

The felling of trees is recognised to be high risk and shall be defined as Defined Hazardous Work. Defined Hazardous Work shall be conducted under a work permit.

Sites shall have a Permit to Work System (refer to **IGO GSS14 - Permit to Work**).

5. TREE FELLING REQUIREMENTS

Persons undertaking tree felling or using a chain saw shall never work alone.

No tree felling operations shall be performed:

- Between dusk and dawn hours
- When wind gusts exceed 10 knots (18.5 kph / 11.5 mph)

- During lightning storms.

Sites shall have procedures in place to ensure the following:

- When tree felling is undertaken within or near overhead powerlines and structures, the appropriate risk assessments and permits must be completed.
- Preparation and approval of a *Daily Tree Felling Work Plan* for each tree or group of trees to be felled
- Gaining environmental approval for felling
- Work party requirements – nomination of person in charge, minimum work party numbers, spotters, number and competency requirements of first aiders
- PPE required for the different activities related to tree felling and minimum equipment to be carried by operators (e.g. wedges and axes by chainsaw operators)
- Defining and setting exclusion zones, separation zones, escape paths and work zones
- The use of a pre-tree felling checklist prior to the felling of each tree
- Site access restrictions and controls on non-work party access
- The provision and use of standard signage and barricading
- Equipment requirements and its inspection, testing and maintenance (e.g. chainsaws, handsaws, axes, ropes)
- Establishing conditions under which a tree felling site may be left unattended
- Emergency response planning including: plan development, operator escape paths, first aid and first aider requirements, fire fighting

Group-wide guidance material is available for activities associated with tree felling including: cutting and felling methods, use of spotters, use of chainsaws, managing hazardous trees, order of tree felling, restrictions on work during high fire danger periods, working near power lines, remote and isolated work, delimiting and cross cutting processes.

6. TRAINING AND COMPETENCY

Persons undertaking tree-felling activities shall be competent in the relevant activities and the equipment used for the activities.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

7.1 Common Management System Standards

- CMS ST-03 Risk Management
- CMS ST-12 Management of Change

7.2 HSES Standards and Guidelines

- SA ST-01 Permit to Work
- SA ST-06 Working at Heights
- SA ST-08 Mobile Plant and Equipment
- SA ST-11 Portable Hand Tools and Equipment
- SA ST-13 Electrical Safety
- SA ST-16 Fire Prevention
- SA ST-19 Safety Signs, Barricades and Barriers
- SA GL-20 Tree Felling
- HE ST-05 Fitness for Work and Wellbeing
- HE ST-11 Thermal Stress Management
- HE ST-12 Personal Protective Equipment
- HE ST-15 Whole Body and Partial Body Vibration

8. DOCUMENT CONTROL

No amendments to this document may be made without the approval of the document owner.

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