Forest Harvesting Optimisation

Consultation Feedback Report

**July 2017**

The draft units were uploaded to the website during June 2017 for consultation and feedback. There were 13 responses, representing 7 training providers (SA, VIC, NSW, TAS, and WA), 3 industry businesses (NSW, SA, VIC) and 1 technology vendor.

Below is a summary of the issues raised and how these issues have been dealt with. This involves a consideration of the information provided, views of industry stakeholders where known, and views provided by the people who are part of the Technical Advisory Committee process. Resolutions are constructed to take into account the needs and views of stakeholders to the extent possible, consistent with Training Package Standards, and often represent a compromise on one or more stakeholder views with the aim of a workable outcome for industry, STAs and Training Providers.

There were a number of changes made to the units that are not noted here as they consisted of minor edits/corrections, such as the use of more appropriate words or rearrangement of text, without modification of content.

| **STAKEHOLDERS FEEDBACK AND ISSUES** | **CONSIDERATION AND PROPOSED RESOLUTION** |
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| **All machine operation units** | |
| 1. Feedback from industry was that there was no need to have separate units for operating harvesting machines for saw log and pulp log production | The project supported the feedback to have single units for operating harvesting machines.  Existing machine operator units were updated to cover the various skills in optimisation, which include approaches for minimising log damage, segregation and stacking, product identification, presentation of logs and knowledge of log quality characteristics.  The units now describe optimisation requirements in terms of meeting ‘*production plan requirements’* or ‘*production systems’,* to allow training be customised according to the production environment, whether it is for sawlog or pulp log production. |
| 1. Remove the GPS requirement as this technology is not applicable in all forest environments and harvesting operations, and will create a barriers for learners | The project removed GPS requirements from the machine operation units and maintained them in the on-board computer units. |
| 1. Operators are required to be aware of, and comply with, standard operating procedures and production plans as opposed to identifying risks, identifing access to trees or determining cutting sequence | This issue was considered by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and it was determined that the units do need to require operators to know how to identify risks and follow safety management procedures with regards to these risks. Likewise, the operators are required to know how to identify access to trees and determine cutting sequence, where required. |
| 1. Feedback suggested that the project includes requirement to demonstrate use of correct processes for de-energising the machine | The project has added ‘*de-energise and isolate machine’* into the performance criteria, performance evidence and knowledge evidence as follows:   * *Shut down, de-energise and isolate machine in line with organisational procedures and machine operation manual* |
| **On-board computer for single grip harvester** | |
| 1. Re-word terms to be generic and cover all brands, e.g. *‘bucking instruction files’* vs *‘cutting instruction files’ or APT files* | The units now use the term ‘*cutting instruction files’* in the units*,* as generic terminology. |
| 1. It was proposed that the project review the following requirements for maintaining or removing from the unit as they are not always used and/or required of an operator:  * Set-up or adjust colour marking settings * Use harvester controls to colour mark, or brand, individual logs * Adjust the settings of diameter potentiometer or encoder | The project has removed all colour-branding requirements from the unit, as this is not always a prescribed outcome. Colour-branding requirements instead will be in the Implementation Guide as a recommendation.  The project maintained ‘*Adjust the settings of diameter potentiometer or encoder, by using the software’s diagnostic menu’* in the unit. |
| 1. Remove ‘trouble shooting’ terminology as to trouble shoot a GPS or computer system is not a reasonable task to ask of an operator | The project has replaced ‘*trouble shooting’* with ‘*identify and report’* faults |
| 1. Include additional knowledge requirements as follows:  * Values in the price matrix and how they affect the performance of the cutting instruction file * Feed performance and feed ramping to ensure correct lengths are achieved * Bark parameters and how they can affect accurate diameter measurements and calibrations * Methods to adjust and monitor grapple or delimber arm pressures using the computer | The following knowledge evidence now appears in the unit:   * *Values in the price matrix and how they affect the performance of the cutting instruction file* * *On-board computer methods to adjust feed performance and feed ramping to ensure correct lengths are achieved* * *On-board computer methods to adjust and monitor grapple or delimber arm pressures* |
| 1. Accredited training programs are also required for technicians who program the cutting instruction files. | This is beyond the scope of this project and the Training Package Issues Register will now list the idea of developing a new unit for the construction and building of APT Files, or exploring whether there is an ITC unit that already covers this issue. |
| **Feller buncher unit** | |
| 1. Remove the requirement to *‘Fit cutting equipment on feller buncher*’. This activity is done by mechanics, not operators.   Also, include inspection of cutting equipment. | The project has replaced ‘*fit cutting equipment’* with ‘*inspect cutting equipment*’ in the performance criteria.  Further details about the various types of cutting equipment (i.e. chain saw bar, circular saw or shearing head) and specific inspection/replacement requirements will also be inserted in the Implementation Guide. |
| **Debark logs mechanically** | |
| 1. Develop a new unit specifically for in-forest mechanical debarking of logs.   FWPCOT2226 Debark Logs Mechanically is for use in mills and processing plants. | The project considered this issue and after consultation with the TAC and other stakeholders determined that a separate unit for this function is not required.  In-forest debarking is a component of log processing for single grip harvester in some regions, which does not require substantial additional skills.  In-forest debarking is also conducted in some forest operations with excavators with log grapple. The Training Package Issues Register will list this issue of operation of an excavator with log grapple for debarking, to be looked at in a different project.  A project was also proposed and documented in the Issues Register for in field wood chipping operations, which covers development of new units and skill sets including the use and operation of flail debarker. |
| **Optimisation skill sets** | |
| 1. Include in the skill sets for optimisation also the following units for environmental care and WHS:  * FWPCOR2203 Follow environmental care procedures * FWPCOR2205 Follow WHS policies and procedures * HLTAID003 Provide first aid | The project considered this issue and after consultation with the TAC determined that a new skill set for optimisation in single grip harvester and forwarder operations would be a duplication of the existing skill sets, i.e. FWPSS00019 Skill set for a single grip harvester operator and FWPSS00013 Skill set for a forwarder operator.  These two existing skill sets, which already include the environmental care and WHS units, will be updated with the revised machine operator units and the on-board computer units can be accessed separately, where required. |