S.O.P.--Bush Road Driving for Personal Vehicles

REVISED: MARCH 4, 2010

For ALL drivers of personal vehicles in the employment of Coast Range who intend to drive on logging roads.

1. Communication:

If you plan to use your personal vehicle on logging roads while under the employment of Coast Range Contracting, you must:

1) **Receive verbal permission from your Supervisor.**
2) **Travel with a radio, or in a radio-controlled convoy.**
3) **Know how to use the radio.**

Failure to follow these 3 rules may result in termination of employment.

2. Calling Kilometres:

- **When driving on bush roads, it is MANDATORY to communicate your position on the road to others who are using the road. Keep your radio microphone in a convenient location so that you are not distracted from your driving while using it.**
- **You are required to call your road position (km sign, direction and road name) every 2 kilometres. E.g. "Car, Down, Mowing Machine at km 6".**
- **Call "Down" when the kilometers are counting down in the direction you are traveling.**
- **Call "Up" when the kilometers are counting up in the direction you are traveling.**
- **Be courteous and brief on the road channel. The channels are busy and casual conversation presents a safety hazard. Obscene language will not be tolerated.**
- **It is also a best practice to advise others when vehicles without radio communication are traveling on bush roads: E.g. "No radio, Up Mowing Machine at 6 km".**
- **SOME ROADS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ROOM FOR YOU AND A HAUL TRUCK TO PASS SAFELY. RADIO COMMUNICATION IS CRITICAL!!**
- **RADIO COMMUNICATION IS A LIFE AND DEATH MATTER!!!**
- **FAILURE TO CALL KILOMETRES OR TRAVELING WITHOUT RADIO CONTACT WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF VEHICLE PRIVELEGES AND/OR LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT.**

3. Sharing the Road:

A LOADED HAUL TRUCK HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY AT ALL TIMES. All other vehicles must pull over safely and stop in a safe place to ensure that the haul truck can pass safely. Once your vehicle has pulled over, the driver must radio the haul truck that he/she is stopped in a safe place and communicate his/her position: E.g. "Clear at Douglas Lake, km 8".

Once the haul truck has passed, be sure the dust has cleared and it is safe to continue on. Radio that you are back on the road, indicating your direction of travel: E.g. "Up Douglas Lake at km 2"

4. **Passing Equipment at Roadside:**

   - **When you approach equipment or vehicles that are working at roadside, come to a complete stop at least 35 metres feet back from the machine. To pass safely, make sure you communicate with the operator by radio. If you cannot reach the operator by radio, get his/her attention by flashing your lights or honking your horn.**
   - **Do not approach active machinery—maintain a safe distance.**
   - **Never pass until the machine operator clearly signals that it is safe to pass.**
   - **Be sure that the machine has stopped moving and all attachments are lowered before passing.**
   - **If in doubt, DO NOT take chances. Be patient and wait for proper communication with the machine operator.**

5. **Speed Limits:**
   Keep to the right hand side of the road and always drive according to road and weather conditions. The maximum speed limits on main roads are 70 km/hr, or as posted. (Your personal car is probably not designed for this speed on a gravel road: 50 km/hr will be plenty.) This limit should never be surpassed and reduced speed will be required when road conditions do not permit your vehicle to travel at a maximum speed. Road signs have been erected to warn the driver that he/she is approaching a one-lane bridge, blind curves, steep hills, etc.

6. **Seat Belts:**
   The use of seat belts in all Coast Range operations is mandatory. Ensure that the seat belts in your vehicle are in good working order and that all passengers are buckled in before you proceed.

7. **Defensive Driving:**
   While driving a personal vehicle on bush roads, it is important that you be prepared for unexpected driving hazards. Always be on guard for over-size vehicles like haul trucks and flat-beds carrying equipment; and slow-moving vehicles, such as graders, and dump trucks. Obey all driving rules as outlined in the Highway Traffic Act.

8. **Vehicle Incidents:**
   Any incident involving personal vehicles must be reported to your Supervisor immediately: whether or not there is apparent physical damage to any vehicle or injury to any person. The Supervisor and/or the Safety Officer are responsible for documenting the incident and following up to help reduce the possibility of the incident ever happening again.

9. **Enforcement:**

   All vehicles must have valid licence and insurance. Drivers must have their valid Driver's Licence with them. Bush roads are now controlled by Enforcement Officers who can, and will issue the same tickets the RCMP does.

_____	_____	_____
Employee Signature	**Employee Name (Please print)**	**Date**