

GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE IN CONTRACT LABOUR IN FORESTRY

Report of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
Best Practices in Forest Contracting

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History of contractors and gladiators

- In 109 BC at Pompeii, contractors were used to hire gladiators
- The recruited gladiators were mostly slaves
- The gladiators had to fight
 - Against each other
 - Against wild and dangerous animals

Their survival rate was very low, Pompeii was destroyed

Why do we need guidelines for contractors?

- **The number of directly employed forest workers is decreasing**
- **The use of contractors for forestry work is of increasing importance worldwide**
- **The work of directly employed forest workers is well regulated and socially protected**
- **The work of contractors and their employees is often lacking viable development and a healthy business environment**

This change-over is bringing along a lot of challenges which have to be solved

Who developed the Guide to good practice in contract labour in forestry?

- In 2004, the FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training requested the establishment of a Team of Specialists (ToS) to develop guidelines for contract labour in forestry**
- The JC was abolished soon after and came under the mandate of the FAO Forestry Commission and the ECE Timber Committee joint programme of work**
- The ToS includes eleven experts representing forestry contractors, workforce, science and public authorities**

- **The ToS compiled several drafts, circulated them among the team members and incorporated improvements, comments and proposals**
- **The final draft was edited and printed by FAO**
- **The print out received today could serve as a review copy for a larger number of experts**
- **The final version will be printed soon after**

Structure of the Guide

- **Part A: Introduction**
- **Part B: Actors**
- **Part C: Guidelines for Best Practices**

The good forestry contractor should....

- **Be registered as a business**
- **Have qualified business management**
- **Employ qualified staff**
- **Possess adequate equipment**
- **Have sufficient provision of capital**
- **Have a quality management system**
- **Have an occupational safety management system**
- **Conclude long-term labour contracts**
- **Be supported by a forestry contractors' association**

The good client should....

- **Employ only registered and recognized contractors**
- **Conclude clearly written contracts**
- **Have an occupational safety management system**
- **Place long-term orders**
- **Prefer contractors with a quality management system and a certificate of good practice**
- **Apply fair competition rules**
- **Communicate with the contractor frequently**
- **Pay the contractor on time**

Public authorities should...

- **Lay down laws and further regulations that consistently demand health protection and safety in forestry work**
- **Initiate regulations to ensure fair and open competition**
- **Define rules on qualification requirements for forestry contractors and their employees**

Structure of the guidelines

