

## **ACOP (2012) Winch Assist Rules**

### **6.4 Winch-assisted harvesting on steep slopes**

6.4.1 All mobile plant using the assistance of a wire rope and/or winch shall be specifically designed, tested, demonstrated to be safe, and certified by a Chartered Professional Engineer to be safe when operated on steep slopes.

6.4.2 The tension on the wire rope shall be restricted to 33 percent of its breaking load at all times.

6.4.3 The maximum operating weight of the mobile plant shall not exceed the rated breaking load of the wire rope.

6.4.4 An emergency back-up system shall be incorporated into the operation to ensure the stability of the mobile plant should the winch, wire rope or anchor fail.

6.4.5 All winch-assisted mobile plant operations shall have a documented safe working best practice, including as a minimum:

- » hazard management
- » machine and wire rope inspection and maintenance routines
- » operator fatigue plans
- » work alone procedures
- » an emergency plan.

6.4.6 All winch-assisted mobile plant shall be constructed to provide adequate emergency access and egress points that can be activated internally and externally.