work in steep terrain

Occupational health aspects

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Scope of forestry work
physical requirements
Employer’s tasks
Who should work
The overall scope of forestry work:

- permanent outdoor work (heat, coldness, wetness, wind, hazard of infections eg. tick born diseases as borreliosis, encephalitis),

- steep sites to very steep sites

- working on shaky ground (stones, holes, wood) with additional abstractions like rambling briars
• Lifting, forced postures, stooped postures, walking and standing in the slope

• personal safety equipment (Helmet, ear muffs, cut protection trousers, gloves)

• working tools are vibrating

• contract work
physical requirements for occupational aptitude

• fitness (bodily and mentally)

• free from giddiness

• good vision and acute hearing

Employers are obliged:

• to ensure the safety and health of workers in every aspect related to the work
• to evaluate the risks to the safety and health of workers inter alia in the choice of work equipment, the chemical substances or preparations used, and the fitting-out of work places
• where he or she entrusts tasks to a worker, take into consideration the worker’s capabilities as regards health and safety
In Austria there is no obligation for a specific medical exam to assess the worker’s capabilities to meet the physical requirements.
Germany

- Unfallverhütungsvorschrift UVV

workers have to be assessed medically before the start of dangerous work with trees/danger of falling
who should not work

e.g.

- Diseases of the cardiovascular system with loss of ability of regulation and performance
- High blood pressure
- Chronic inflammatory diseases
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Disorders of the nervous system (central and peripheral)
- Epilepsy
- Addiction (alcohol, drugs)
- Depression
- Pulmonary diseases with functional impairment
- Complicated diabetes mellitus
- Defective vision
- Relevant skin diseases
- Relevant hearing impairment
who should work

• Use of common sense
• Training (Fitness!)
• Experience
• Communication
• Perception of day-to-day fitness (worker and manager)