

Ministry of Forests

Office of the Chief Foreter & Integrated Resource Operations Division

MEMORANDUM

File: 135-45/OIC# 2024 (FRPA 2.1 Regulations)

Reference: 278107

March 21, 2024

BY EMAIL

To: Regional Executive Directors (FOR)

District Managers (FOR) Regional Directors (EMLI)

Rachael Pollard, Executive Director, Forest Sector Transformation Timber, Range and Economics Division, Ministry of Forests

From: Shane Berg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Chief Forester

Matt Austin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Integrated Resource Operations Division

Re: Bill 23 – 2021, Amendments to the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, Administrative Orders and Remedies Regulation and the Provincial Forest Use Regulation, OIC# 119/2024

On November 25, 2021, the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Forest Practices Code of BC Act* was amended to enable the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations related to Act changes in 2021. On March 11, 2024, OIC #119/2024 brought into immediate effect a portion of the regulations proposed under Bill 23 and is summarized below. The amended regulations are now available on <u>BC Laws</u>.

Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (Forest and Range Practices Act)

Changes to the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) include:

- The chief forester may order stocking standards to apply over a forest stewardship plan (FRPA, Section 31.1).
- FPPR, Section 16.1 describes the circumstances when the chief forester may consider making an order.
- New authorities created under Bill 23 to define an area of catastrophic disturbance will be enabled to allow for landscape level investment in reforestation (FPPR, Section 96.1).
- Clarifies which natural disturbance events are eligible for Section 108 funding [FPPR, Section 96.1 (1.1)].

Regional Executive Directors (FOR), District Managers (FOR), Regional Directors (EMLI) Rachel Pollard, Executive Director, Forest Sector Transformation

Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation (Forest and Range Practices Act)

Changes to the Woodlot Licence Planning and Practices Regulation include:

- New authorities created under Bill 23 to define an area of catastrophic disturbance will be enabled to allow for landscape level investment in reforestation (FPPR, Section 96.1).
- Clarifies which natural disturbance events are eligible for Section 108 funding [FPPR, Section 96.1 (1.1)].

Administrative Orders and Remedies Regulation (Forest and Range Practices Act)

Amendments to the Administrative Orders and Remedies Regulation include the following:

- Specifying penalties related to road provisions under the *Forest Act* and FPPR.
- Increasing penalties for specific types of contraventions.

Provincial Forest Use Regulation (Forest Practices Code of BC Act)

Amendments to the Provincial Forest Use Regulation is specific to the administration of special use permits (SUPs). Major changes include:

- Create more clarity on who can apply for an SUP and where.
- Specifying how annual charges will be administered and the method of calculation of annual charges for each purpose under Section 7.
- Enhancing compliance and enforcement on SUPs including ongoing liabilities, suspension, cancellation, Minister's Orders, use of deposits and penalties.
- Specifying the maximum term for each purpose and further clarity on applying and receiving extensions.
- Specifying when a district manager may refuse the issuance or replacement of an SUP.
- Providing directions on existing SUPs and moving those SUPs into the new regulatory regime (see Interim Guidance SUP transition under OIC #119/2024.

Next Steps

- Training will be provided to FOR district staff to enable staff to provide current and accurate advice to clients to manage their operations under these regulations.
- Updates to the SUP Policies and SUP Administration Manual and other support material is posted to the Special Use Permit website.
- Updates to the FRPA legislation website is posted on the following: Recent changes to FRPA and associated regulations website.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact EngageFRPA@gov.bc.ca or ForestTenuresBranch@gov.bc.ca.

Shane Berg

Assistant Deputy Minister Office of the Chief Forester Matt Austin

Assistant Deputy Minister
Integrated Resource Operations Division

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