

Management of MSMA-treated Trees in British Columbia

APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This policy shall apply to Forest Service staff in all Forest Regions and Forest Districts and shall take effect on the date it is signed.

The implementation of this policy will be monitored and the policy shall be reviewed periodically to determine the degree to which the guidelines are being implemented. Revisions will be made as deemed appropriate.

BACKGROUND

Monosodium methanearsonate (MSMA) is an arsenical pesticide that was used to treat single trees for small incipient outbreaks of mountain pine beetle and to create lethal trap trees for spruce beetle. This pesticide has been federally registered for use against bark beetles in Canada under the trade name Glowon[®].

The federal registration for Glowon[®] has expired; the supplier will not pursue re-registration due to data needs and projected market size. The Ministry of Forests and Range will not pursue re-registration of this material. The Ministry of Forests and Range decided that it will no longer use Glowon[®] and all existing stocks of the material were disposed of.

The Forest Practices Board in its audit of the bark beetle practices in the Nadina Forest District (2004) recommended "The Ministry of Forests provide provincial policy for tracking MSMA-treated trees to ensure that treated trees are not harvested and milled." This policy sets out guidelines for managing MSMA-treated trees.

Following implementation of the original policy in 2007, a sampling program and human health risk assessment were conducted to examine the potential long-term implications of historical treatment of trees with MSMA. The report concluded that humans are not at risk as a result of this historical use of MSMA; as a result no further research is planned and the Ministry of Forests and Range policy has been updated accordingly.

POLICY INTENT

This policy is intended:

1. to provide guidance for the use of pesticides that are similar in action to Glowon[®] for the purpose of bark beetle control;

2. to provide clear direction that any MSMA-treated trees that are encountered are to be identified and marked but not be harvested;
3. to establish guidelines that will further the objective of minimising the potential for exposure to MSMA treated trees by forestry workers and by the public; and
4. to establish policy priorities relating to MSMA treated trees and sites.

POLICY RATIONALE

1. *To provide guidance for the use of pesticides that are similar in action to Glowon[®] for the purpose of bark beetle control.*
 - ♦ All applicable Federal and Provincial Legislation and the Regulations there under shall be followed with respect to the storage, transport, use, and disposal of pesticides.
 - ♦ Any future considerations regarding the use of an active ingredient similar to that of MSMA must conform to the *Integrated Pest Management Act* and its Regulations.
 - ♦ Where replacement treatments are used, any advertising relating to that use and/or requesting comments from the public on pesticide use shall be clearly worded and avoid use of ambiguous or excessively technical language.
 - ♦ In general, any pesticide that may be registered for single tree treatment shall be used only in areas that are considered to be inaccessible; where there is no expectation that harvesting will occur in the foreseeable future and in inoperable areas; and, where the potential for risk of exposure to private citizens and forestry workers is minimised. Treatment in inoperable areas should not normally occur near private property or in areas that are or could be frequented by people.

Where pesticides for single tree treatments may be used, detailed mapping utilising accurate GPS locations will be mandatory and the resultant maps will be communicated to BC Timber Sales and to other agencies and licensees for their use in developing plans.

2. *To provide clear direction that any MSMA-treated trees that are encountered shall be identified and marked but not be harvested.*
 - ♦ MSMA treated trees that are encountered shall not be harvested, removed, milled, and/or burned.
 - ♦ The Ministry of Forests and Range will work with BC Timber Sales and licensees to develop and implement controls that prevent the harvesting, removal and milling of MSMA treated trees in areas where treatments are known to have occurred.



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3. *To establish guidelines that will minimise the potential for exposure to MSMA treated trees by forestry workers and the public.*

- ◆ A provincial database shall be developed and posted on the Ministry of Forests and Range website that summarises, by forest district:
 - location of MSMA treated trees (GPS coordinates) including the following:
 - the approximate number and species of MSMA treated trees
 - the approximate area of the patch in hectares
 - the date (season and year) that the MSMA treated trees or patches of MSMA treated trees were established, if known.
- ◆ The provincial database will be available in a tabular and a map-based format for each forest district.
- ◆ The database will be accessible to any agency or person to determine if they are using an area of historic MSMA treatment. The database should be consulted when new tenures are proposed.
- ◆ Human health risk assessment information relating to the risks from MSMA and from MSMA trees shall be made available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website.

4. *To establish policy priorities relating to MSMA trees and sites.*

- ◆ Where MSMA treated trees are encountered, they shall be marked conspicuously, left on-site, and the site GPS'd and reported to the data base custodian.
- ◆ Where MSMA treated trees are encountered they may be incorporated into leave areas. Where this approach is not practical, the trees should be marked conspicuously as MSMA-treated trees, and left on-site. It is recommended that these sites shall be mapped by BC Timber Sales and/or licensees and shall be recorded and reported to the data base custodian for entry into the provincial database.
- ◆ Where MSMA treated trees are incorporated into wildlife tree patches:
 - there is to be no net loss of habitat at the landscape level as a result of MSMA treated trees being included in wildlife tree patches (e.g., non-salvageable stands). Heavily MSMA-treated stands should not be used as suitable wildlife tree patches and efforts should be made to compensate for any consequent habitat loss in these areas.



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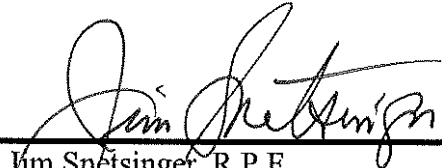
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DEFINITIONS

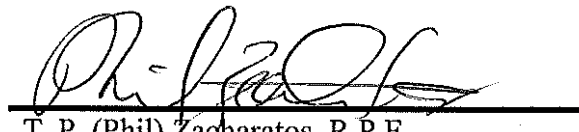
Inaccessible/isolated means out-of-the way, secluded, where there is no chance of harvesting in the foreseeable future, where there is no private property of any kind in close proximity and where there are no areas (such as remote recreation sites) that are or could be frequented by people.

Inoperable means that terrain, slope, water, soil or environmentally sensitive site barriers would preclude harvesting.

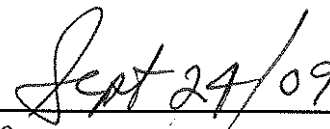
MSMA-treated tree means a tree that has been treated previously with MSMA and is still on-site, either standing or felled.



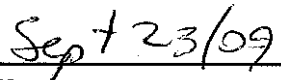
Jim Snetsinger, R.P.F.
Chief Forester




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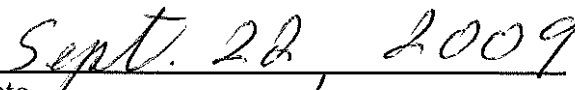
Date



Date



Dave Peterson, R.P.F.
ADM, BC Timber Sales



Date