

File: 135-20/SREG

December 17, 2002

To: All Regions
All Districts

From: Larry Pedersen
Chief Forester

**Re: Stocking Standards for Areas to be Harvested During the Forest Practices Code
Transition Period**

On December 17, 2002, Bill 75 will come into effect and the following procedures will apply:

- The requirement for submitting new Silviculture Prescriptions to be approved by the statutory decision maker is eliminated;
- For cutblocks that do not have an approved Silviculture Prescription, stocking standards must be included in a Forest Development Plan (FDP) prior to the commencement of harvesting. The FDP must specify the stocking standards applicable to different site types and conditions.
- Foresters must identify on the site plan which of the approved stocking standards apply to each standards unit within the cutblock.



See Appendix 1 for a basic flow diagram of the above process.

New FDP Requirements

Where stocking standards were previously required in a Silviculture Prescription, they are now required in a FDP. Attaching stocking standards to the FDP is a major amendment. Amendments may include stocking standards that apply to:

- an individual cutblock,
- several cutblocks,
- all cutblocks proposed within a development plan.

The advertising requirement is not required when the FDP is amended to include stocking standards.

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Areas with Existing Approved SPs

If there is an existing approved Silviculture Prescription, the stocking standards in the Silviculture Prescription apply and the area can be harvested after a cutting permit is issued. Transition provisions in Bill 75 and the regulations do not apply retrospectively to areas with approved Silviculture Prescriptions. Amendments to stocking standards in approved Silviculture Prescriptions will require district manager approval.

Areas Without an Existing approved Silviculture Prescription

Where there is no approved Silviculture Prescription, the stocking standards must be submitted to the district manager as a FDP amendment.

Silviculture stocking standards that are submitted for approval must contain all the items specified in the regulation. The attached template FS789 is a suggested format for preparing stocking standards to be submitted as Forest Development Plan amendments. The new Operational and Site Planning Regulation sections 18.1 and 18.2 specify the stocking standards requirements for:

- areas that will be managed as even-aged stands
- areas that will be managed as uneven-aged stands
- intermediate harvests with no regeneration objectives

Where the proposed silviculture stocking standards differ from what has been recently approved, a clear rationale should be developed to support the proposal.

The *Establishment to Free Growing* guidebooks and other applicable guidebooks may be referenced for more information respecting stocking standards. The MoF reference guide to FDP stocking standards has been prepared to provide information for the development of FDP standards (See <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/hfp.htm>). When considering Forest Development Plan amendments the district manager may use this as a reference document but is in no way constrained by it.

The district manager must use the same approval tests as were used for approving stocking standards in silviculture prescriptions (section 41 of the *Forest Practices Code Act*). The district manager should also be satisfied that the standards are consistent with the requirements of Section 18.1 (7) of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation, i.e.:

- any higher level plan for the area,
- establishing a healthy, ecologically suitable stand of trees that is commercially valuable, and
- the current and future timber supply for the area.

Once approved for use, the FDP stocking standards apply to the sites types or conditions for which they were designed. The prescribing forester is responsible for assigning these standards to standards units as described in a site plan. They become the standards against which compliance will be measured.

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Development of stocking standards that apply to a portion or all of the cutblocks in a FDP is a step toward the requirements of a Forest Stewardship Plan under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

For additional information or questions on developing stocking standards please contact Brian Raymer at 250-387-8909 (brian.raymer@gems7.gov.bc.ca) or Paul Rehsler, 250-387-8908 (paul.rehsler@gems9.gov.bc.ca).



Larry Pedersen
Chief Forester

Attachments: 2

Appendix 1



