



File: 19720-01

SEP 22 2009

BY EMAIL

To: Regional Executive Directors
District Managers

From: Bob Friesen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Tenure and Revenue Division

T.P. (Phil) Zacharatos, RPF
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Re: **Guidance When Dealing with a Catastrophic Event Necessitating Increased Harvesting on Woodlot Licences**



Background

Experience with the catastrophic Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infestation in the north-central forest districts indicates that guidance is needed to streamline the workload associated with these events. With many woodlots in the northwest, northeast and southern interior currently being infested with MPB (or other beetles), there remains a need for guidance.

Legal Services and other specialists have been consulted to develop a procedure that would shorten the carry forward term, address Crown revenue concerns and reduce the workload associated with a new determination of an allowable annual cut (AAC).

Recommended Procedures

The following approach is consistent with existing legislation and is recommended:

At the onset of the catastrophic event, the following actions are implemented:

- 1) The district manager, in consultation with the Woodlot licensee, issues one (or more) Cut Control Limit (CCL) exemption(s).

A standard condition of the exemption [*Forest Act*, Section 75.9 (1)(b)] will require that a new management plan (MP) containing a new AAC, be prepared and submitted for approval at a specified date in the future – when conditions have stabilized.

The district manager may, as per [*Forest Act*, Section 45 (1)(f)], specify in the exemption letter the date for a new MP submission or indicate that they will notify the

To: Regional Executive Directors

licensee of a new MP due date once the catastrophic event has settled down. A licensee may submit a new MP of their own volition.

- 2) When conditions have stabilized (the event is over or close to being over and new, accurate information is available) the new MP, containing the new AAC, is submitted for approval

The new AAC will have two components consisting of:

- a) a forward looking, sustainable, operational AAC based on the remaining green timber that is available in the inventory; and,
 - b) a catastrophic AAC equal to the Volume of Timber Harvested (VTH) in excess of the AAC from the previous cut control period (CCP).
- 3) Update FTA with the new AAC. Annual rent and fire preparedness levy will then be paid on the new AAC.
 - 4) At the end of the next (i.e. second) CCP, the catastrophic AAC will no longer be applicable (i.e. it will be considered as "spent") and only the operational AAC will be available for harvest. FTA will again be updated to reflect the sustainable, operational AAC available for harvest and the annual rent will be adjusted to reflect this change.

If there are any questions, please contact Dave Haley, Woodlot Licence Forester, Resource Tenures Branch, at either (250) 743-8933, extension 2239 (Cobble Hill) or (250) 387-8317 (Victoria).



Bob Friesen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Tenure and Revenue Division



T.P. (Phil) Zacharatos, RPF
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

pc: Brian McNaughton, General Manager, Federation of BC Woodlot Association