

Amendment #3 to the existing Selkirk District Default Stocking Standards Dated April 16, 2018.

The intent of this amendment is to address:

1. Extension of late Free growing on fire and other damaged stands under a Section 108 claim;
2. Allow for a change to Minimum Inter-Tree Distance (MITD) both the distance and circumstances
3. Allow for Sub-maritime Coastal Douglas-fir (Fdc) to be planted to a limited extent
4. Remove maximum conifer density guidelines and standards from the default standards as per the Chief Forester May 25, 2022 Guidance.
5. Footnote 58 approved Variation

1. Late Free Growing Extensions under Section 108 – Approved Variation

Due to wildfire or other natural disturbances allowed for claims under Section 108 it is often necessary to extend late Free Growing to allow time for the replanted/ reforested stands to meet their Free Growing obligations. Since there is no process within RESULTS to reset the clock based on a natural disturbance, this approved variation allows for the late Free Growing time to be reset to 20 years from the year of the fire. All other standards remain the same. Note that the Month and Day will remain based on the original harvest disturbance of the Opening/ Block due to RESULTS system limitations.

2. Minimum Inter-Tree Distance (MITD) – Approved Variation

The change is to allow for an MITD as low as 1.6 metres in the following circumstances:

1. Fill planting or re-planting situations (a re-plant is when the stand has been surveyed as NSR/ below minimum stocking standards, a fill plant is when stocking is above minimum stocking at time of survey/ planting).
2. Mechanically site prepared sites.
3. Planting on Hydric or sub-hydric sites.
4. Obstacle planting for sites deemed to:
 - a. have high grazing domestic animal pressure (cattle and others) or
 - b. a high probability of snow creep damage to seedlings on steeper slopes in heavy snow fall areas

This lower MITD is to be used only for spacing between Layer 3 and 4 planted trees and planted trees with natural layer 3 and/ or 4 trees. It is not approved for using between planted trees and Layers 1 and 2 retained trees. The MITD for these remains at 2.0 metres. It is also not approved for use with a naturally regenerated stand.

3. Sub-Maritime Coastal Douglas-fir (Fdc) – Approved Variation

Allow for Sub-Maritime A Class Coastal Douglas-fir to be planted and included in the stocking standards on ICH sites based on Progeny trial research by Ministry of Forests Tree Breeders. Fdc can be planted and substituted for Fdi where Fdi is currently a Preferred Species and Fdc would have the same status within the existing DSE Default stocking standards. Planting is limited to max 50% of the species on a single block as per the rules for Fdi. Given this is an operational trial at this time planting is to be limited to a maximum of 5% of an annual planting program for an individual Licencee or 50,000 seedlings, whichever is greater.

4. Maximum Density Change – Approved Variation

The maximum density measurement and standard and subsequent spacing requirements are removed from the standard and no longer a requirement based on the recommendation from the Chief Forester and within the CF Memo dated May 25, 2022 “Chief forester’s updated guidance on maximum density for free growing obligations”

5. Footnote 58 – Approved Variation

For any Selkirk District Default standards with Footnote 58 stating that Fdi may not be counted for more than 50% of the Free Growing Stems at the time of FG survey and declaration this is changed to Fd (Fdi or Fdc) is not to be planted to more than 50% of the total stems planted in a Standard Unit on a block.

If Root disease management in the form of Stump removal has been undertaken, then there is no restriction on the percentage of Douglas-fir that can be planted or counted at the time of planting or Free Growing survey. The removal of this restriction is only for those areas within an Opening or Standard Unit where stump removal was performed.

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