BRITISH COLUMBIA

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December 13, 1996

Dear Licensee:

Further to our discussion at the last FLC meeting about the "Responsibilities for Controlling Bark Beetles in the Lakes Forest District" and further to the points raised by some licensees under separate letters, I offer the following as clarification.

I have attached a letter which provides the source of our "Responsibilities for Bark Beetle Management" which varies from the matrix under the old provincial policy. The guidelines provided direction for the District Manager in deriving the District "policy" sent to all licensees on November 13th, 1996.

As you can see, the activities within the "Licensee Responsibilities" section outlined on page 2 of the guidelines are virtually identical to those in the District policy. The responsibility differs slightly in the area under FDP where the Lakes District policy has defined the area as 400 meters within approved and existing roads and blocks as identified within Years 1 and 2 of the current FDP for all activities.

Therefore, as clarification, your responsibilities as volume-based tenure holders are outlined on page 1 of Lakes Forest District policy. The activities are described under Section 1 of "Explanation of Responsibilities". The area that you are responsible for carrying out those activities includes the area within 400 meters from approved (in FDP approval letter) and existing roads and cutblocks in years 1 and 2 of your currently approved Forest Development Plan. The area of your responsibility is extended where infested timber exists outside the 400 meter area and the licensee proposes to harvest that volume.

I hope this clarifies our position. If you have any further questions, please contact me

Yours truly,

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Enclosure: Letter from Operations Division

GUIDELINES FOR BARK BEETLE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE FOREST PRACTICES CODE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTRODUCTION: Management actions are necessary to reduce or minimise damage caused by bark beetles. These actions include some or all of the following, depending on the management strategy selected for any particular area: aerial and ground surveys; hazard rating; control treatments such as use of pheromones, conventional and lethal trap trees, treatment with MSMA, falling and burning of infested trees, and single tree removal; and, removal of blowdown and general hazard reduction (including selection logging and "beetle-proofing").

The timing and applicability of each of these actions within a management area are discussed in the Bark Beetle Management Guidebook, however, responsibility as to who or which agency is responsible for carrying out the action is not specified.

In the past, various forest regions and districts have made agreements with licensees as to which actions each would be responsible for in particular areas. While most of these agreements have been similar, some inconsistencies have occurred. Further, the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and related regulations now require inclusion of activities such as these within approved Forest Development Plans.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to District Managers in determining responsibilities of the Ministry of Forests, the forest industry, or others for various beetle management activities within identified management areas as specified by the District Manager under Section 13(2) of the Operational Planning Regulation of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*.

Further, this document is intended to provide some guidance as to the area to be included in a development plan for the purposes of beetle management. District Managers have full authority and responsibility to accept or modify this guide to meet overall management objectives.

JUSTIFICATION AND AUTHORITY: The determination of licensee responsibilities are identified under Section 12(g) & (i) and 28(1)d of the *Forest Act*, Section 17(3)c of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, and Sections 13(1) & (2), 15(6)e and 29(1) & (2) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, Operational Planning Regulations.

APPLICATION: The District Manager has the authority to determine the area to be included within a Forest Development Plan. This area may vary depending on the activity being considered and the management objectives for the area. Licensee and Ministry responsibilities for bark beetle management activities should be jointly

agreed upon prior to submission of a Forest Development Plan. Acknowledgement of the responsibilities should be incorporated into the development plan and a beetle management plan should be included as an approved appendix to the development plan.

The above responsibilities are applicable to area based tenures (including woodlot licenses) Area-based tenure holders are responsible for all activities within the boundaries of their tenure.

MINISTRY OF FORESTS RESPONSIBILITIES: The Ministry of Forests should assume full responsibility for ensuring that aerial overview surveys and sketch mapping, at scales of 1:100,000 or less, are conducted over all forested lands within the district on an annual basis. Results of these surveys should be made available to licensees, parks agencies, or other management agencies for information and to facilitate planning. These surveys will also provide the District Manager with an overall risk assessment of bark beetles and other notable damaging agents within the district.

The Ministry of Forests may also assume responsibilities for activities noted under "Licensee Responsibilities" (below) in unallocated planning cells and/or in other areas not specifically under management by other agencies.

LICENSEE RESPONSIBILITIES: The following responsibilities are proposed for volume based tenures, including woodlot licenses but excluding pulp wood agreements, Christmas tree permits, and other speciality tenures. For the purposes of this document, the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP) is considered to be a licensee.

AREA	ACTIVITY
a) within 1km around all approved and existing roads and cutblocks within the 5 year development plan area.	• risk and hazard rating • detailed flying • colour photos • ground surveys
b) within 400m around approved or existing cutblocks and on each side of approved or existing roads within the areas identified in the first 2 years of the 5 year development plan area.	• pheromone placement • MSMA • fall and burn • conventional trap trees • lethal trap trees • single tree harvesting • blowdown recovery/haza reduction