



SPRUCE BEETLE HAULING AND STORAGE MONITORING

Purpose:

To reduce the risk and impact of escaping spruce beetle adults during the storage, hauling and milling of infested spruce

Background:

The success of pest reduction harvesting depends on quick extraction, transportation and processing of beetle-infested logs before newly developed adult beetles can emerge in the forest, escape from logs on landings, roadsides, storage yards, loads in transit, or from decks in mill yards.

Important Notes:

- Licencees should have documented management plans for processing logs infested with spruce beetle. This should include a flight monitoring plan (see beetle monitoring & Lindgren Funnel Traps) to determine high risk periods for hauling & storage.
 - Funnel traps **do not** eliminate risk of beetle escape and flight from storage areas. Funnel traps are used to monitor flight periods only.
- Depending on weather and environmental conditions, the spruce beetle flight period can begin in **early May** and extend through **until late August**.
- Effective hauling and storage strategies will consider both the level of risk and potential impact.
- If hauling activities are to be conducted across more than one natural resource district then proponent licensees need to liaise with adjacent districts.

Hauling & Storage Monitoring:

All spruce logs harvested from, or stored within, beetle management units with known beetle populations are considered infested unless data is collected on site to verify that the stand is not infested (spruce beetle survey data, infested trees are sorted on site etc.). Timber cruise survey data does **not** provide sufficient verification.

May 15th-June 30th is typically the peak spruce beetle flight period; between these dates, FLNRORD will be monitoring for:

- Storage of infested logs at milling facilities, in the field, or in temporary storage.
- Hauling during high risk periods (See Table 1). **Note:** temperatures will be evaluated for the duration of hauling (i.e.. throughout the complete hauling cycle) and for the period prior to milling.

Table 1 – Temperature Thresholds for hauling of spruce beetle-infested wood

Temperature	Action
Less than 16° C	Low Risk
Greater than 16°	High Risk

Additional Mitigation Measures:

To reduce the risk and liability of hauling and milling beetle infested wood at a processing plant during the beetle flight, the licensee may consider any of the following contingencies or combinations of them.

- Logging truck drivers should be instructed to ensure uninterrupted transportation from the block to the mill site.
- If an interruption in hauling occurs (ex. truck breakdown) the mill owner should be notified and treatment plans organized to address the additional risk associated with the incident.
- During winter operations, beetle infested wood can be sorted. Non-infested volumes can be separated for transport during the beetle flight.
- During the spruce beetle flight period, non-infested and/or non-host species should be transported and milled.
- Placing infested logs at the bottom of decks and packing them with snow can delay beetle development and “buy time” if there are excessive inventories requiring priority milling.
- Trap trees can be placed around storage areas to contain escaping beetles to the immediate area.
- A plan should be developed as part of the risk assessment strategy to detect and treat any spill-over attacks within 3 km of each mill yard or storage area.

For additional information on spruce beetle management, please contact your local FLNRORD office.

