



General Bulletin

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Archaeological Impact Assessment Amendments

Background

Amendments to Section 26(1) and 63(1) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* (Act) were approved on February 2, 1996. Please refer to [Regulation Bulletin #6](#) for additional detail. The amendments provides district managers greater discretion in determining if an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) is required for an area under a forest development plan (FDP).

Recommendations

The following recommendations are for district managers to consider in determining if an AIA is required. This should not be interpreted as Ministry policy or a legal interpretation.

1. The regulation amendment eliminated the requirement for an archaeological overview assessment (AOA) but this information, where available, may be used to identify potential areas requiring an AIA.
2. Consult First Nations on areas of archaeological interest.
3. Review past studies, assessments and the current FDPs for direction.
4. Request archaeological site information from the Archaeology Branch of the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

Sec. 41(2) of the Act provides authority for district managers to require additional information with the FDP submission. This section may be of some use when requesting information to determine if an AIA required. District managers should notify licensees of the need for AIAs at least four months prior to a FDP being submitted for approval to provide adequate time for completing assessments.

It should also be noted that sec. 51(2) obligates persons carrying out forest practices to modify or stop activities in the vicinity of previously unidentified cultural heritage resources and to inform the district manager.

Contacts

Further details and direction are available from:

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