



General Bulletin

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Winter Roads

The code specifically provides for snow roads, but is not so clear on roads built with a mixture of snow and dirt and roads built completely with soil in the winter. The clauses of the *Forest Road Regulation* that deal with road construction apply equally to roads built in winter as they do to roads built in summer. However, it is apparent that different processes and measures are needed under such diverse operating conditions, while all such roads must still conform to the statutory requirements.

A draft document titled *Planning and Building Forest Roads for Winter Use in B.C.* has been prepared by the resource tenures and engineering branch. This document is intended for application, with care, by practitioners this winter, and should address most related issues and conflicts between industry and the regulatory agencies, including MOF. The document has been forwarded electronically to each MOF region and district, and hard copies are being sent to forestry associations. It is expected that districts will prepare sufficient photocopies for the use of local forest companies, particularly when the companies are not affiliated with associations.

The procedures contained in the document have been subject to review by selected MOF and forest industry personnel. However, it is vital that those building such roads be reminded that this document is intended to provide guidelines for **consideration** of applicability in local situations, rather than addressing specific hazards and consequences under those local conditions. It is not a textbook that details hard and fast rules for implementation. The proponents will be fully responsible for their actions, and should not consider that this publication will serve to defend any inappropriate applications of the construction practices covered. Only when the guidebook is completed should the information be considered as a best management practice. The interim document should be applied with caution.

The branch will be soliciting comments on the applicability and suitability of this document during the next several months. A revised version of the *Forest Road Engineering Guidebook* will incorporate input and any additional appropriate photographs.

Copies of this bulletin are also available on BBBULLET. Copies of *Planning and Building Forest Roads for Winter Use in B.C.* can be downloaded from the ministry's FTP server.

Further details and direction are available from:

Ron Davis at ???

