

General FIA Standards

Effective April 1, 2002

These standards are applicable to the following activities carried out under the Land Base Investment Program of the Forest Investment Account (FIA): Fertilization, Juvenile Spacing, Planting, Pruning, Site Preparation, Surveys, Vegetation Management, Prescription Development, Silviculture Strategy Development, Defoliator Spraying, Pest Monitoring, Pest Detection, Pest Control, Environmental Maintenance Projects (Roads Activity Area), Permanent Road Deactivation, Landslide and Gully Rehabilitation (Terrestrial Activity Area).

Additional standards specific to individual activities may be contained in separate FIA Activity Standards Documents.

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ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Definitions

1.01 In this document, the following words have the following meanings:

“**Administrator**” means the administrator referred to in a Recipient Agreement;

“**Approved Plan**” for silvicultural and forest health activities, means a document that meets all statutory requirements applicable to the scope of the plan, including approval by the District Manager if required, and

(a) where it contains specifications or standards for establishing or tending a forested area, is signed and sealed by an RPF, or

(b) is a sustainable forest management plan.

“**District Manager**” means the District Manager of the forest district of the Ministry of Forests within which a Work Area is located, and includes a person delegated or appointed by the District Manager to act on his or her behalf;

“**FIA Activity Standards Document**” means a document issued by the Ministry of Forests containing requirements or specifications for the carrying out of a specific type of activity funded under the Land

Base Investment Program of the Forest Investment Account (FIA);

“**FIA Standards**” means the requirements or specifications contained in this document and in the FIA Activity Standards Documents;

“**Forest Practices Code**” means the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and Regulations and Standards to that Act;

“**Recipient**” means a party designated by the Ministry of Forests to receive funding pursuant to a Recipient Agreement;

“**Recipient Agreement**” means the contract between an Administrator and a Recipient for performance of the Work;

“**Technical Contact**” means the person named as the technical contact for a particular FIA activity on the Ministry of Forests FIA website.

“**Work**” means the work described and funded under a Recipient Agreement;

“**Work Area**” means individual locations, forest stands, treatment units, standards units, or other particular areas or locations where Work is to be undertaken or any area of Crown Land occupied for purposes of the Work;

“**Work Plan**” for silvicultural activities, means a plan signed and sealed by a Registered Professional

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Forester having at a minimum the contents specified in a FIA Activity Standards Document and that is not required to be approved by a District Manager.

Interpretation

- 1.02 A word defined in section 0 has the same meaning in a FIA Activity Standards Document.
- 1.03 Where a word or abbreviation which has a well known technical or trade meaning is used in a FIA Activity Standards Document, it has that recognized meaning.
- 1.04 The headings in this document and in a FIA Activity Standards Document have been inserted for reference only and do not define, limit, alter or enlarge the meaning of any provision.
- 1.05 Any reference to a FIA Standard, a manual or a form means a FIA Standard, manual or form published by or for the Province and includes every amendment to them and any FIA Standard, manual or form published from time to time in substitution for them or replacement of them.
- 1.06 An Approved Plan takes precedence over a FIA Standard.
- 1.07 Sections 2.11, 4.02 and 5.02, will, despite the completion of Work, remain and continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 2 STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

General

- 2.01 All Work must be performed to the FIA Standards applicable to the type of Work and in compliance with the laws of Canada and British Columbia applicable to the Work and the Work Area.
- 2.02 Work must at all times be conducted with the standard of care, skill and diligence normally exercised and observed by persons engaged in the performance of activities similar to the Work.
- 2.03 Work may only be performed during biological and weather conditions appropriate to:
 - (a) ensuring high efficacy of the Work, and
 - (b) ensuring the avoidance of Environmental Damage.

First Nations Requirements

- 2.04 Where a new prescription is sought or the proposed activity may have an impact on the forest land base and is outside of the Forest Development review process the Recipient must carry out a process of information-sharing with potentially affected First Nations. .
- 2.05 The results of this process must be presented to the District Manager prior to Work being initiated. The District Manager will consider the information provided and may require further consultation, mitigative measures, other activities, or may recommend that Work not

proceed based on issues brought forward in relation to aboriginal interests.

Strategies and Plans for Silviculture and Forest Health

- 2.06 A Recipient must ensure that the Work is consistent with the activities and priorities expressed in existing silviculture or forest health strategies and resource management plans.
- 2.07 A Recipient must:
 - (a) not commence Work on a Work Area which is not subject to an Approved Plan;
 - (b) before commencing Work, ensure that the Approved Plan for a Work Area is appropriate and specific to the silviculture activity the Recipient is planning to carry out on that Work area;
 - (c) ensure all actions meet or exceed the requirements and objectives of the applicable Approved Plan for each Work Area; and
 - (d) if at any time an Approved Plan appears unsuitable or not in compliance with the Forest Practices Code, particularly as a result of forest health factors, immediately suspend any portion of the Work affected by the unsuitable or non-compliant aspect of an Approved Plan, and inform the Administrator.
- 2.08 Where an Approved Plan does not contain a specification required by a FIA Activity Standards Document, the specification must be made in a Work Plan before Work commences on that activity and the Work must meet or exceed the specifications and standards of the Work Plan.
- 2.09 A Work Plan may not amend or substitute anything the Forest Practices Code requires to be in an Approved Plan.

Project Planning for Road, Landslide and Gully Rehabilitation Work

- 2.10 The requirements for project planning (e.g., prioritizing candidate projects for expenditure, conducting access management planning, and if necessary, carrying out a public review process) for environmental maintenance projects (Roads Activity Area), and permanent road deactivation, landslide and gully rehabilitation (Terrestrial Activity Area) are provided in the FIA Activity Standards Documents.

Protection of Property and the Environment

- 2.11 In carrying out the Work the Recipient must not cause, or create conditions that are likely to cause, events, such as landslides, adverse gully processes, snow avalanches or destabilized alluvial fans, which have, or may, risk human life or safety, damage property or adversely affect water quality, quantity or supply.
- 2.12 If the Recipient causes harm contrary to paragraph 2.11 or if the Recipient reasonably believes that carrying out the Work will result in a breach of paragraph 2.11 the Recipient must:
 - (a) immediately stop the Work in the area affected;

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- (b) prevent any further damage;
 - (c) immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator; and
 - (d) take any remedial measures that the District Manager or the Administrator requires.
- 2.13 Work that has been stopped under section 2.12 may be resumed when:
- (a) it can be resumed without breaching sections 2.11 and; and
 - (b) any remedial measures required under section 2.12 have been carried out to the satisfaction of the District Manager or the Administrator.
- 2.14 Work Areas must be kept free from any accumulation of waste products or debris resulting from the Work.
- 2.15 In addition to the notification requirements in sections 2.11 and 2.12, a Recipient must immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator whenever any contravention of the Forest Practices Code occurs or is observed.

ARTICLE 3 MONITORING

Monitoring by the Province

- 3.01 The District Manager may monitor at any time, any Work performed.
- 3.02 Any monitoring conducted by the District Manager is for the sole benefit of the Province, and does not release the Recipient or the Administrator from the responsibility of providing quality control measures to assure that the Work complies with the FIA Standards.

ARTICLE 4 REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

Reporting Requirements for Silviculture and Forest Health

- 4.01 The Recipient must submit FIA activity accomplishment reports and maps signed by a Registered Professional Forester in the format and at the times specified in reporting guidelines and documents posted on the Ministry of Forests' FIA website. Reports must be submitted to the Administrator and must be completed to the satisfaction of the Administrator.

Record Keeping

- 4.02 The Recipient must retain on its own files for a period of not less than three years all data, reports, photographs and maps required to be produced by a FIA Activity Standards Document.

ARTICLE 5 MISCELLANEOUS

Method of Measurement

- 5.01 Unless otherwise specified, all linear and area measurements are measured on the horizontal plane.

Ownership of Work Or Improvements

- 5.02 Despite any Work or improvements on Crown land that may be performed or made by the Recipient, the sole ownership of all Work Areas and any improvements remains with the Province.

Non-Waiver

- 5.03 A waiver of a FIA Standard or a waiver of a Recipient's breach of a FIA Standard is effective only if it is in writing and signed by the District Manager.