

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](#), [Defoliator Spraying](#), [Pest Monitoring](#), [Pest Detection and Control](#), [Watershed Restoration](#), [Road Deactivation and Monitoring](#)

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" means a document that meets all statutory 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,
- (b) where it contains specifications or standards for an activity other than for establishing or tending a forested area, is signed by a Qualified Registered Professional,
- (c) is a sustainable forest management plan; or
- (d) is a watershed or restoration plan that has been reviewed and approved by government.

"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;

"Environmental Damage" means slumping or sliding of land, inordinate soil disturbance, or other significant damage to the environment, and for the purposes of this definition, the words "inordinate soil disturbance" and "significant damage" have the meanings given to them in the Forest Practices Code;

"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;

"Qualified Registered Professional" means a person who has appropriate education and experience to carry out a professional activity, is a member of or is licensed by a regulatory body in British Columbia that has the legislated authority to regulate its members or licensees performing the activity, and includes an RPF where the context so requires;

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

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"Recipient Agreement" means the contract between an Administrator and a Recipient for performance of the Work;

"Registered Professional Forester" or "RPF" means a professional forester registered with the Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters;

"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 Day" means every day of the week except Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays;

"Work Plan" means a plan signed and sealed by a Qualified Registered Professional 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 1.01 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 Documents 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 2.01, and 5.03 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 If a Recipient is unclear as to which FIA Activity Standards Document applies to the Work, the Recipient must confirm the applicable standards with the District Manager before commencing the Work.

2.03 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.

- 2.04 Work may only be performed during biological and weather conditions appropriate to:
- (a) ensuring high efficacy of the Work,
 - (b) ensuring the avoidance of Environmental Damage, and
 - (c) limiting disturbance to other natural resources to within allowed tolerances.

First Nations Requirements

- 2.05 The Recipient must carry out a process of information-sharing with potentially affected First Nations regarding any new activities if a new prescription is being sought or if the activity is outside of the Forest Development review process and may have an impact on the forest land base.
- 2.06 The results of these discussions must be presented to the District Manager prior to work being initiated. At that time the District Manager will consider the information provided and may require further consultation, mitigative measures, other activities, or may refuse approval of the work to proceed based on issues brought forward in relation to aboriginal interests.

Strategies and Plans

- 2.07 A Recipient must ensure that the Work is consistent with the activities and priorities expressed in existing silviculture strategies and resource management plans.
- 2.08 A Recipient must:
 - (a) not commence Work on a Work Area not having an Approved Plan for that area;
 - (b) before commencing Work, ensure that the Approved Plan for a Work Area is appropriate and specific to the silviculture activity he or she 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 person responsible for the Approved Plan.
- 2.09 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.

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- 2.10 A Work Plan may not amend or substitute for a requirement that the Forest Practices Code requires to be in an Approved Plan.

Protection of Property and the Environment

- 2.11 A Work Area and adjacent property must be protected from damage, including Environmental Damage. The Recipient is responsible for any damage which may arise as the result of the Work in accordance with its Recipient Agreement
- 2.12 If, due to weather conditions or site factors, proceeding with the Work may, directly or indirectly, cause Environmental Damage, a Recipient must:
- (a) immediately suspend the Work that may cause Environmental Damage;
 - (b) immediately advise the District Manager and the Administrator of the suspension and circumstances;
 - (c) not proceed with the Work until the District Manager or the Administrator so instructs; and
 - (d) upon the District Manager's or the Administrator's instruction to proceed with the Work, do so in accordance with the instructions.
- 2.13 If a Recipient causes Environmental Damage while performing the Work the Recipient must:
- (a) immediately stop the Work in the area affected;
 - (b) prevent any further damage to the environment;
 - (c) immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator; and
 - (d) take any remedial measures that the District Manager or the Administrator requires.
- 2.14 Work that has been stopped under section 2.13 may be resumed when:
- (a) it can be resumed without breaching sections 2.01 and 2.13; and
 - (b) any remedial measures required under section 2.13 have been carried out to the satisfaction of the District Manager or the Administrator.

- 2.15 Work Areas must be kept free from any accumulation of waste products or debris resulting from the Work.
- 2.16 In addition to the notification requirements in sections 2.12 and 2.13, 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 ACCEPTABILITY OF WORK

Inspection by the Province

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

ARTICLE 4 MISCELLANEOUS

Method of Measurement

- 5.01 All linear and area measurements in a FIA Standard are measured on the horizontal plane.

Ownership

- (a) 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.

Recipient Status

- 5.02 Except as otherwise provided in a FIA Standard, the Recipient is not subject to the control of the Province in respect of the manner in which the Work is carried out.

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.