



Ministry
of Forests



FIA SOWING STANDARDS

Effective September 3rd, 2002

These standards apply, in addition to the General FIA Standards (FS 1001), to all sowing activities funded under the Forest Investment Account (FIA).

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ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this document the following words shall have the following meanings.

"Commercial Equivalent Rates" means the Ministry of Forests' commercial equivalency rates available at the time of sowing. <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/nursery/headqtrs/ComEquiv2002.htm>

"Seed Costs" means the Ministry of Forests' seed costs available at the time of sowing. http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/nursery/headqtrs/Seed_Cost.htm

"Seedling Storage and Transport Costs" means the Ministry of Forests' seedling storage and shipping costs available at the time of storage and shipping. http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/nursery/headqtrs/storage_transport.htm

"Seedlings" means forest tree seedlings.

"Seedlot" means a unique identifier of a pool of genetic material.

"Sowing" means sowing seed to produce seedlings.

"Specified" means, as the context so requires, specified in an Approved Plan or Work Plan, in a FIA Standard, or by a District Manager.

"Standard Seedling Stock Specifications" means the Ministry of Forests' seedling stock specifications available at the time of sowing. <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/nursery/headqtrs/Specs2002.htm>

ARTICLE 2: SOWING STANDARDS

General Requirements

2.1 All Sowing must be in accordance with the FIA Standards.

2.2 Seed must only be sown for areas that are expected to be suitably prepared and accessible in the year the Seedlings will be available.

Seedlot Specifications

- 2.3 Seedlots chosen for Sowing must:
- (a) be suitable for the expected planting location;
 - (b) meet any Specified criteria;
 - (c) meet the Forest Practices Code of BC Act requirements for genetic quality; and
 - (d) be within the seed transfer limits for the expected planting location.

Stock Specifications

- 2.4 When choosing stock types for Sowing the following must be considered:
- (a) the Specifications in any applicable plan or prescription;
 - (b) the tree species being sown;
 - (c) the planting site conditions at the expected planting location;
 - (d) the vegetative competition; and
 - (e) other relevant factors.

Timing of Sowing

- 2.5 Seed must be sown by a date that would reasonably allow the achievement of MoF Standard Seedling Stock Specifications by the date required for lifting.

Limits on quantity of Seedlings ordered

- 2.6 The quantity of Seedlings ordered must not exceed the lesser of any of the following;
- (a) the number of trees required to plant the area that is suitable for planting in the year the Seedlings will be available;
 - (b) the number of trees required to plant the area that has been identified as high or medium priority for FIA funding; and
 - (c) the number of trees that is possible to plant with the budget amount expected in the year the Seedlings will be available.

Choice of Nurseries

- 2.7 Seed must only be sown at nurseries that have previously grown and substantively met the MoF Standard Seedling Stock Specifications for the stock type and species being sown.

Cost of Seed and Seedlings

- 2.8 The actual cost claim for seed must not exceed the Seed Costs published by the Ministry of Forests.
- 2.9 The actual cost claim for seedlings must not exceed the Commercial Equivalent Rates published by the Ministry of Forests.
- 2.10 The actual cost claim for seedling shipping and storage must not exceed the Seedling Storage and Transport Costs published by the Ministry of Forests.
- 2.11 Subject to 2.8 and 2.9, the cost claim for the year the seed is sown may be up to 35% of the total cost for growing the seedlings including the seed.
- 2.12 Subject to 2.8 and 2.9, the remainder of the cost may be claimed the year the seedlings are planted.
- 2.13 Suitable documentation to substantiate claims for seed, seedling, seedling storage and seedling shipping costs must be retained on file for a period of not less than 5 years and must be produced upon request of the Administrator or the Ministry of Forests.

ARTICLE 3: INSPECTION & NOTIFICATION**Quality Inspection**

- 3.1 All Work must be inspected by a person (the “Inspector”) who is:
- (a) the Registered Professional Forester (RPF), or operates under the direction of the RPF, who will sign and professionally seal reports for the Work,
 - (b) experienced and competent in conducting inspections of Seedlings,
 - (c) familiar with the Approved Plans and Work Plans for the Work Areas, and
 - (d) not engaged in the direct conduct of the Sowing operations.
- 3.2 An Inspector must carry out inspections to the extent necessary to ensure all Work is performed to the FIA Standards and Seedlings are likely to meet MoF Standard Seedling Stock Specifications.

Requirement to Notify the Administrator

- 3.3 A Recipient must immediately notify the Administrator as soon as it becomes known that a substantial number of seed sown have or are likely to fail to meet the MoF Standard Seedling Stock Specifications.