

Forest Service Roads

**A Guide for
Industrial Users**



Resource Tenures
and Engineering

Introduction

This pamphlet is a guide and outline of responsibilities for industrial users of Forest Service roads for:

- obtaining road use permits;
- maintaining and using roads.

A road use permit may be issued to an individual or to a company that has a right to harvest timber or who wishes to use the road for an industrial purpose. The permit holder is responsible, under the Forest Practices Code, for activities on the road of its contractors, employees, agents, etc.

Road-use permits on Forest Service roads

- A forest or industrial user must apply for a road use permit before using a Forest Service road, using the appropriate application form.
- In considering the application, the forest district manager must be satisfied that a road use permit does not adversely affect the other authorized users of the road.
- The road use permit specifies the size and weight limits of industrial vehicles to be used on the Forest Service road.

Road user committees and agreements

- Where a forest or industrial road user is designated to do road maintenance, other industrial users are required to reach agreement with the maintainer for items such as shared road maintenance costs and conditions of use.
- A forest district manager requires written confirmation of such agreements when considering applications for road use permits.

Workers' Compensation Board— principal contractor

Where there are two or more industrial users of a Forest Service road, one of them may be designated by the ministry as the “principal contractor.”

- The principal contractor is responsible for coordinating all safety-related activities on the road or right-of-way.

WCB will issue any orders for non-compliance with its regulations to the principal contractor.

Road maintenance

- The Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act, Section 63(7), gives a forest district manager the authority to require the holder of a road use permit to assume all or part of the responsibility for maintenance. This can be done at any time during the life of the permit, and a road use permittee will be informed by letter if this is required.
- The Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act, Section 63, and the Forest Road Regulation describe the inspection and maintenance requirements. The permittee is expected to be familiar with the regulation and guidebooks. Details may be obtained at any forest district office.
- If there are already other industrial users of the particular Forest Service road listed in the application, the applicant must reach agreement with the user designated for road maintenance.

Insurance of vehicles

- Vehicles used on Forest Service roads must be licensed by the Motor Vehicle Branch of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and insured by the Insurance Corporation of B.C. if they are also used on public highways.
- Vehicles that do not travel on public highways must be covered by private, third-party liability insurance, to a minimum of \$200,000.

Vehicle accidents

- The RCMP should be advised of vehicle accidents that involve serious injury or death
- Insurance adjusters may not be able to visit the scene of an accident. Vehicle operators involved in an accident are advised to take photographs, obtain the names of witnesses and collect other information that will assist an adjuster to apportion the damages appropriately

Radio use

- Two-way radio use is not mandatory on Forest Service roads but, where radios are used, drivers should announce their location and direction of travel at each kilometre marker along the road, using the frequency posted at the beginning of the road.

Vehicle maintenance

- Vehicle operators are required by statute to ensure their vehicles are properly maintained.

Speed limits

- Forest Service roads must be driven on according to posted limits or, when no speed limit is posted, at a speed suitable for the road conditions. Under no circumstances should speed exceed 80 kilometres per hour.

All-terrain vehicles

- Wheeled all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) may be used on a Forest Service road unless the road is posted with a sign restricting use.

An ATV operator must have:

- a valid driver's licence;
- a minimum of \$200,000 third-party liability insurance for the operator and ATV; and,
- a safety helmet when operating two- or three-wheeled ATVs.

Abandoned vehicles or equipment

- Abandoning a vehicle or piece of equipment on a Forest Service road or right-of-way is an offense.
- Owners may be responsible for towing, storage and disposal charges in addition to a fine if a district manager orders the removal of an abandoned vehicle.

Vehicle Identification

Unlicensed industrial vehicles may be used on Forest Service roads, provided the name of the vehicle owner and a distinguishing vehicle number are clearly visible on the vehicle cab.

Damage to roads

- A permittee is responsible for any damage done to a Forest Service road by the use of a vehicle.
- If such damage occurs, a district manager may order the permittee to pay for the cost of repairs and the permittee may also be fined up to \$5,000.

Security deposits

- A road use permittee may be required to provide a security deposit under the terms of the road use permit. The deposit enables the forest district manager to complete any work the permittee fails to do.

Pilot cars

- User safety is paramount. A permittee may use a vehicle larger than that authorized in the permit, provided a pilot car with appropriate flashing lights escorts the over-size vehicle. A forest district manager does not need to specifically authorize such use.

For more information, contact:

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