

# TIMBER MARKS FOR PRIVATE LAND

## Types of land ownership in British Columbia

Timber is cut on four types of land in B.C.:

- provincial Crown land
- federal Crown land
- private land that is owned in 'fee simple'
- treaty land

For timber marking purposes, all land except provincial Crown land is considered private. Timber is cut, marked and then transported to various destinations, such as local mills, dry land sorts, booming grounds, and log brokers.

## Marking Private Timber

A timber mark does not grant the authority to cut timber. A timber mark tracks the movement of timber and helps to prevent theft of the province's timber resources.

A timber mark is an identifying mark that must be stamped on cut timber before it can be transported on public roads. A timber mark identifies the timber so that Forest Service personnel can determine the origin of the timber, and whether the timber is subject to provincial or federal export controls.

Thus, timber marks facilitate enforcement of the *Forest Act* and the *Forest and Range Practices Act* of British Columbia. See [Part 5](#) of the of the *Forest Act* for more information. [Part 10](#) deals with provincial export controls.

## Registering Private Timber Marks

- The Registrar administers the provincial timber mark register and determines whether a timber mark certificate will be issued, and if it is subject to federal or provincial export controls.
- A certificate describes a timber mark and identifies the private land.
- The Office of the Registrar of Timber Marks is in Victoria.



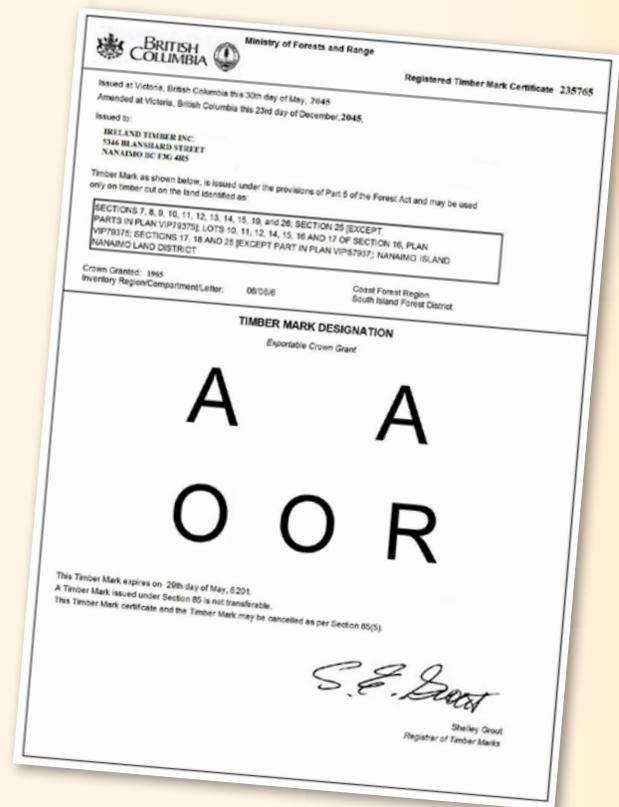
## About Timber Marks

### Q: What does a timber mark look like?

A: A timber mark is a series of letters and/or numbers in a combination that is unique.

### Q: How long is a timber mark valid, and can it be renewed?

A: A timber mark certificate is valid for five years from the date of registration. It can be renewed, even if the original five-year term has passed.



### Q: What parcels of land does a timber mark apply to?

A: A timber mark may be used on timber that is cut on land that is identified in the certificate. One timber mark can be used on many different properties, as long as the property owners are identical.

### Q: Can a timber mark be used on timber that is on land other than the land identified in the certificate?

A: The timber mark certificate can be amended at any time to add or remove properties.



**Q: Can a certificate be transferred to other people or organizations?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Who can apply for a certificate?**

**A:** The following persons may apply for a certificate:

1. the owner(s) of the land as indicated on the title at Land Titles Office. This is the most common situation.
2. someone who holds an agreement to purchase the private land, which is just an interim step to ownership. This agreement has to be registered on the title at Land Titles Office also.
3. occasionally a person or company will own the timber, but not the land. This is common where land was granted for farming purposes only. In this case, only the owner of the timber can apply for a timber mark certificate.

**Q: Can I submit an application for a timber mark certificate on behalf of a person who may apply for the certificate?**

**A:** An attorney under a power of attorney may apply for the certificate if the attorney has the authority to do so.

**Q: Where do I apply for a Certificate?**

**A:** You can apply at your local Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations District office, or at a FrontCounter BC office. You can find a link to resource district and FrontCounter BC offices on our web site at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/maps/regdis/>

**Q: What client information do I need to provide?**

**A:** If you are not already a client of the Ministry, you must supply:

- full legal name
- full contact information (address, telephone, email, etc.)
- your driver's licence number, for individuals only.

For corporations, a Company Registry number is required. In this case, the driver's licence number of the person applying on behalf of a corporation is not required.

**Q: What do I need to provide in my application?**

**A:** The information in the application must include:

1. A copy of your latest BC Assessment Authority Notice or a Certificate of Title, and a full legal description of the land from which the timber will be removed.
2. The signatures of all the owners.
3. If the property is adjacent to Crown land, a copy of the survey plan of the property(s) from which the timber will be removed.

**Q: How long does the application process take?**

**A:** If approved, the certificate will usually be mailed about 21 working days after the Registrar receives an application that includes all of the required information.

**Q: Once I receive a certificate, how do I mark the timber?**

**A:** Contact your local Forest Service or FrontCounter BC office and an official of that office will advise you how to properly mark timber.

**Q: How much does a certificate cost?**

**A:** The certificate is issued at no charge.

**Q: Is it possible to renew an expired or cancelled timber mark?**

**A:** Yes, some people want to keep their old hammers. Just select the "renewal" option at the top of the FS361 application form.

**More information**

Contact your nearest Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations District office, or FrontCounter BC office.

Application Form:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/isb/forms/lib/fs361.pdf>

Forest Districts Map and Links:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/maps/regdis/regdis.htm>

Private Timber Marks:

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/private-timber-marks.htm>

