



File: FOR-11250-01/FSR

June 13, 2014

To: All Forest Service Road Users in the South Island Natural Resource District

RE: DISTRICT MANAGER INFORMATION NOTICE – COAST AREA

**RADIO COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS BEING IMPLEMENTED ON
FOREST SERVICE ROADS IN THE SOUTH ISLAND NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT**

This letter is to advise of pending changes to radio communication protocols for Forest Service Roads (FSRs) in the South Island Natural Resource District.

Standard resource road radio communications protocols are being implemented in the district following on successful outcomes of pilot projects examining whether road user safety could be improved through standardized protocols for mobile radio communications when travelling on resource roads in BC. The pilot projects consisted of implementing: standardized radio communications signage, a set of dedicated resource road radio channels, and standardized call procedures. The pilots occurred on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and in the South Peace areas of the Province.

The standard resource road radio communications protocol, radio channels and signs were developed by the radio communications working group, with representatives from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (including BC Timber Sales), Industry Canada, BC Forest Safety Council/Truck Safe and FPInnovations. The working group coordinated numerous meetings with forest licensees and truck drivers in developing the protocol. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations lead the implementation and evaluation of the pilot projects. Industry Canada is taking the greater lead role as implementation of the standard protocols spreads to other areas of the Province.

Previously, mobile radio communications has been highly variable across the Province with users required to know the unwritten local protocols. Heavy radio traffic volume caused frequent overlapping calls and interference resulting in reduced safety of radio communications systems. Truckers and other road users with mobile radios needed to reprogram their radios to gain access to local radio channels as they moved around to different work locations. In the pilot areas, a single set of radio channels was used on forest service roads. New communications signs were posted for the pilot roads indicating which radio channel to use as well as calling procedure including: road name, location, direction being travelled, vehicle type and calling interval.

The pilot projects were successful and the new standard protocols are being gradually expanded from the original pilot areas and into other areas of the Province. A key finding in the pilots, were challenges in regards to the incorporation of tones in the radio channels associated with the pilot radio frequencies. As a result, new resource road channels without tones have been established for provincial implementation.

Page 1 of 2

All Forest Service Road Users.

Currently, activity is underway in the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast areas to revise the standard bank of resource road radio channels and further expand the standard communications protocols onto other forest service roads. Squamish Resource District will also be transitioning to the new protocols. The transition will begin on **Saturday, August 23, 2014**.

Throughout the next several weeks forest service roads will be reposted with the new radio channel numbers. Road radio users shall be expected to have the revised standard bank of Resource Road Radio Channels (40 channels), pre-programmed into their radios prior to August 23, 2014, for use when the posted channels are updated on individual roads. Radio shops are aware and prepared to program radios with the revised channels. **Note:** as not all resource roads will be adopting the new Resource Road Radio Channels, it is recommended that road users retain current radio frequencies until such time that they are no longer required.

Where posted, road users using mobile radios must use the posted channels and call protocols. All road users are reminded that forest service roads and the majority of resource roads are not radio controlled but that they are radio assisted and should drive safely according to the road conditions and weather.

It is recommended that all users exercise additional caution when travelling on resource roads during the transition period. This should be communicated to all affected employees and contractors.

The local Resource Road Safety committees have worked together to bring this change about in this area and forest licensees have been disseminating information and informing their employees and contractors.

Thanks to all those involved in collaborating in the transition, including forest licensees and road safety committees to make this a safe transition.

For further information, please contact: Ed Kleywegt, District Engineering Officer, South Island Natural Resource District at 250 731-3021, or Industry Canada at 1-800-667-3780.

A summary report of the pilot projects, produced by FPInnovations, as well as other information pertaining to resource road radio communications can be found by visiting:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/Road_Radio_Project.htm

Yours truly,

Rhonda Morris
District Manager
South Island Natural Resource District

Attachment – Industry Canada Information Bulletin



May 12 2014

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON RESOURCE INDUSTRY RADIO CHANNELS USED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Industry Canada has been working with stakeholders across BC to develop a standardized bank of radio channels for use on resource roads to enhance traffic safety. This notice is to inform you about this channeling plan, the programming specifications, and it's implementation on **Vancouver Island**, some areas on the **Sunshine Coast**, and the **Squamish** area.

Implementation: The new Resource Road channel plan will come into use **Saturday, August 23 2014**.

Note that this affects *only those Forest Service Roads that are currently operating the PILOT Resource Road Channels in the above areas. These roads will be posted with the corresponding RR signage.* However, even trucks that only occasionally drive these roads should still have the new channels installed. Users should also anticipate that the use of these standardized channels will be expanded to other areas of Vancouver Island and other areas of the province in the future.

Usage:

Resource Road (RR) Channels: RR channels are used for radio assisted traffic control. The specific RR channel used will be posted at the entry point of the road. Please visit the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations web page to view the most current maps indicating where each channel is used. http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/Road_Radio_Project.htm. Examples of typical road channel signs can viewed on-line at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/sign_standards.htm.

Loading (LD) Channel: LD channels are used for the co-ordination of temporary site specific field work. The loading and unloading of resources or equipment and short term field work within a cut block are two possible examples. The selection of the specific LD channel to use is up to the person in charge of the site. When a channel is selected be sure to listen for a period of time to ensure you are not interfering with other operations.

Interference can result if any channel is used improperly, such as for "chit-chat", etc. Please use the LAD channels for talk not directly associated with these designated uses. All channels are designated that they cause no interference to other users and must accept interference from other priority spectrum users.

Technical Details:

CTCSS Tones no longer used: CTCSS Tones are no longer used due to compatibility issues. All channels are to be programmed as Carrier Squelch only.

Radio Channels: Frequencies have been added to accommodate the discontinuation of tones. There are now a total of 40 unique channels: 35 road channels, and 5 loading channels.

Radio Transmitter Power: Output power has been standardized to 30 watts maximum on all channels. 5 watt channels were not found to provide sufficient benefit to the overall system.

Channel Designations: The channel labels are RR-1 to RR-35 and LD-1 to LD-5. The removal of tones now means that the former suffix "A", "B", or "C" for each label is no longer necessary.

Radio Channel Programming: All channels should be programmed into a separate bank. There should not be any NON-RR/LD channels mixed in this bank. Only the RR-XX or LD-XX label should appear on the radio display, since this is what will correspond to the road signs. No other channel information should be displayed.

Radio Licencing: Two-way radios require a valid Industry Canada radio licence. The use of amateur, marine or user programmable radios are not permitted. Radios must be approved under RSS 119 issue 5 or later and must be able to accommodate narrowband channels.

Bandwidth: All channels are simplex narrowband (11 kHz). Use of wideband radios is not acceptable.

Road Channels			
Frequency MHz	Label	Frequency MHz	Label
150.0800	RR-1	150.7700	RR-19
150.1100	RR-2	150.8300	RR-20
150.1400	RR-3	151.0100	RR-21
150.1850	RR-4	151.1300	RR-22
150.2000	RR-5	151.1900	RR-23
150.2450	RR-6	151.2200	RR-24
150.2600	RR-7	151.3100	RR-25
150.3200	RR-8	151.3400	RR-26
150.3650	RR-9	151.3700	RR-27
150.4100	RR-10	151.4300	RR-28
150.4400	RR-11	151.4600	RR-29
150.5000	RR-12	151.4900	RR-30
150.5300	RR-13	151.5200	RR-31
150.5450	RR-14	151.5800	RR-32
150.5600	RR-15	151.6100	RR-33
150.5900	RR-16	151.6400	RR-34
150.6800	RR-17	151.6700	RR-35
150.7100	RR-18		

Loading Channels	
Frequency MHz	Label
151.7000	LD-1
151.7450	LD-2
151.7900	LD-3
151.8050	LD-4
151.8500	LD-5

Contact Industry Canada at:

British Columbia/Yukon
1-800-667-3780

North Central Alberta
1-800-461-2646

Southern Alberta
1-800-267-9401

Note for radio suppliers:

Advanced planning with clients is recommended, to ensure their radios are programmed *prior* to the RR roll-out.

This is also a good time to confirm your clients are properly licenced. Users must have the RR Appendix on their mobile licence. If they do, no further action is required. If a client does not have RR Appendix on their licence, it must be added. Clients can email us directly; quoting their company name & licence #. Alternatively, suppliers can make the request to IC on their clients' behalf.

Appendix RR requests for Vancouver Island clients should be sent to victoria.district@ic.gc.ca
Appendix RR requests for Squamish & Sunshine Coast clients should be sent to vancouver.district@ic.gc.ca

Should you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Victoria office at 1-800-667-3780.

Thank-you.


Jeff Stanhope
Manager, Vancouver Island District



Visit our web site @ <http://www.ic.gc.ca>