

To the Members of ABCFP and APEGBC

Re: Updating the Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector - Crossings

The Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings were approved by the APEGBC and ABCFP Councils in March 2005. The Guidelines outline the level of due diligence members of the APEGBC and ABCFP should exercise when carrying out the design and construction of forest road bridges and culverts (crossings). The Guidelines also seek to clarify overlap issues between the practice of Professional Engineering and Professional Forestry as contained in the respective Acts.

After the Guidelines were issued in March 2005, it was noted that the term “Major Culvert” was also used in the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). The definition for this term in FRPA was different than the one used in the Crossing Guidelines. The difference has led to some confusion by practitioners and those engaging professional service.

The Guidelines have been reviewed and amended by the Joint Practice Board of APEGBC and the ABCFP and approved by the respective councils. The amended Guidelines are attached and a rationale for the changes follows.

Rationale Description for the amendment to the “Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings - September 2008

The definition of Major Culvert as follows and as defined in 1.5 Definitions - Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings (March 2005):

Major Culvert

Is a crossing where the Coordinating Registered Professional must be a Professional Engineer and is a culvert used to carry ephemeral or perennial stream flow in a stream channel from one side of the road to the other, and has a maximum design discharge of 6 cubic meters per second or greater, and is one of the following:

1. a pipe having a diameter of 2000mm or greater;
2. a pipe arch having a span of 2130mm or greater;
3. an open bottom arch having a span of 2130mm or greater.

is hereby removed from the Crossing Guidelines. A replacement definition of Engineered Culvert is now in effect. The new definition of Engineered Culvert is defined as follows:

Engineered Culvert

Is a crossing where:

1. the crossing is used to carry ephemeral or perennial stream flow in a stream channel from one side to the other;
2. the Coordinating Registered Professional must be a Professional Engineer;
3. the crossing is not a log/wood culvert; and
4. the crossing is a culvert that:
 - a. is one of the following:
 - i. a pipe having a diameter of 2000mm or greater;
 - ii. a pipe arch having a span of 2130mm or greater;
 - iii. an open bottom arch having a span of 2130mm or greater, or
 - b. has a maximum design discharge of 6 m³/s or greater.

This change is a result of feedback from both APEGBC and ABCFP membership and addresses a number of concerns and issues that have been put forward since the release of the Crossing Guidelines.

The new definition of engineered culvert separates the design discharge requirement of 6m³/s or greater from the minimum metal pipe sizing requirements. This provides further guidance that the Coordinating Registered Professional for all large metal culverts that meet either the design discharge requirement of 6m³/s or the minimum metal pipe size requirement must be a Professional Engineer.

The new definition also explicitly states that an engineered culvert is not a log/wood culvert that has a maximum design stream discharge of 6m³/s or greater. This is intended to avoid any confusion with the definition of a major culvert within the content of existing legislation. Generally, the plan/design, construction and maintenance of large metal culverts are more complex than log/wood culverts of equal design discharge. In most instances, large metal culverts with a maximum design discharge of 6m³/s or greater require a higher standard of engineering regarding site plan formulation, construction considerations and erosion protection. Both Forest Professionals and Professional Engineers will continue to play a role in the planning/designing, construction and maintenance of log/wood culverts. Currently, there are a number of design aid sources (e.g. FERIC Log Bridge Construction Handbook and Forest Road Engineering Guidebook) available to Professionals. These or other local derived design aids should form the basis regarding the planning/designing and construction of log/wood culverts to Professional working in the Forest Sector.

The definition of major culvert exists under current legislation. The removal of this definition from the Crossing Guidelines does not imply in any way the neglect or disregard of existing legal obligations. The new definition of engineered culvert is intended to solely provide more clarity and professional guidance with respect to metal and/or wood culverts within the scope of the Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings (March 2005).

Regards,



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