GUIDE D’APPLICATION DU RÈGLEMENT SUR L’AMÉNAGEMENT DURABLE DES FORÊTS DU DOMAINE DE L’ÉTAT
Note to the reader

The content of the On-line Guide to the application of the regulation respecting the sustainable development of forest in the domain of the State will evolve to incorporate technical and scientific details of certain sections or information necessary for their application. Updates will be listed on the page entitled Register of Amendments.

It is the user's responsibility to use the updated printed document from the online publication available at mffp.gouv.qc.ca/RADF/guide/?lang=en.

Production

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Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division I – General provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush, the balsam fir forest and the spruce-moss forest

Section 131

A minimum of 30% of the productive forest area in residual forest of 7 m or more in height must be maintained at all times in a territorial reference unit where harvesting is carried out.

Where the limits of a territorial reference unit are changed, in particular following a change of the limits of a development unit, the first paragraph applies to the new territorial reference unit.

1

Objectives

- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife
- To provide access to the territory

Figure 131 Percentage of residual forest of 7 m or more in height to be maintained in a territorial reference unit
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division I – General provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush, the balsam fir forest and the spruce-moss forest

Section 132

The provisions of section 131 do not prevent deforestation carried out in order to build, improve or repair a road giving access to another territorial reference unit.

1

Objective

- To provide access to the territory

Explanations

Deforestation may be carried out to build, improve or repair a road giving access to another territorial reference unit without complying with the provisions of section 131, which provides that at least 30% of productive forest area must be maintained in a residual forest of 7 m or more in height, at all times, in a territorial reference unit.
Figure 131 Percentage of residual forest of 7 m or more in height to be maintained in a territorial reference unit
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§1. Total cutting

**Section 133**

In the development units or in the territorial reference units located in the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush referred to in [Schedule 1](#), the total cutting areas must:

1. have a size less than or equal to 25 ha over at least 70% of the harvested area for that type of cutting;
2. have a size less than or equal to 50 ha over at least 90% of the harvested area for that type of cutting;
3. have a size less than or equal to 100 ha over 100% of the harvested area for that type of cutting.

1

**Objectives**

- To reconcile the various activities that take place in the forest
- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
- To limit the size of total cutting areas in a single block

**Additional information**

The total cutting areas covered by this section are, as specified in [section 135](#), those indicated in the integrated forest development plan and whose planned harvest is carried out during a harvest year.

These total cutting areas may be part of a block cutting or other type of total cutting.
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§1. Total cutting

Section 134

In the development units or in the territorial reference units located in the bioclimatic domains of the balsam fir stand referred to in Schedule 1, the total cutting areas must:

1. have a size less than or equal to 50 ha over at least 70% of the harvested area for that type of cutting;
2. have a size less than or equal to 100 ha over at least 90% of the harvested area for that type of cutting;
3. have a size less than or equal to 150 ha over 100% of the harvested area for that type of cutting.

1

Objectives

- To reconcile the various activities that take place in the forest
- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
- To limit the size of total cutting areas in a single block

Additional information

The total cutting areas covered by this section are, as specified in section 135, those indicated in the integrated forest development plan and whose planned harvest is carried out during a harvest year.
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§1. Total cutting

Section 135

The total cutting areas to which sections 133 and 134 apply are those indicated in the integrated forest development plan and whose planned harvest is carried out during a harvest year.

1

Objective

- To clarify the scope of the Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest

Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest

§2. Total cutting other than block cutting

**Section 136**

A strip of woodland in a single block must be maintained between the total cutting areas other than block cutting, until the regeneration of the cutting areas has reached an average height of 3 m. The strip of woodland between 2 cutting areas must be at least 60 m wide where each cutting area covers an area of less than 100 ha or at least 100 m wide where one of the cutting areas covers an area of 100 to 150 ha.

The strip of woodland must be composed of trees, shrubs or brush over 3 m in height and must be used as a visual screen and a corridor for the movement of wildlife.

1

**Objective**

- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest
Figure 136 Strip of woodland between two total cutting areas other than block cutting

The travel of logging machines is prohibited in that strip of woodland, except during the construction or improvement of a road.

2

Objective

- To allow certain forest development activities in or near a particular place

Figure 136 Strip of woodland between two total cutting areas other than block cutting
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§2. Total cutting other than block cutting

Section 137

Any total cutting is prohibited in the strip of woodland referred to in section 136 until the regeneration is established in the cutting areas in accordance with the first paragraph of that section.

1

Objectives

- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife
- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest

Explanations

Any total cutting is prohibited in the strip of woodland between total cutting areas until the regeneration in the cutting areas has reached an average height of 3 m.
Partial cutting is allowed on 25% of the total length of the strips of woodland referred to in section 136 included in a management unit or in another forest territory in the domain of the State. However, the strip of woodland that is partially cut between 2 total cutting areas must be at least 75 m wide where each cutting area covers an area less than 100 ha or a minimum width of 125 m where one of the cutting areas covers an area of 100 to 150 ha. After partial cutting, the strip of woodland, that must be used as a visual screen and a corridor for the movement of wildlife, must be composed, per hectare, of not less than 1,500 standing live trees of commercial species having a diameter of 2 cm or more, as measured at 1.3 m above the highest ground level.

For carrying out the partial cutting referred to in the second paragraph, the deforestation of felling or hauling trails must be carried out over a width less than 1.5 times the width of the logging machine used.

### Objectives

- To allow certain forest development activities in or near a particular place
- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest
- To allow for the harvesting of timber

The construction or improvement of a road crossing the strip of woodland is allowed to the extent that the deforestation carried out for that purpose does not exceed the width of the right-of-way provided for in Schedule 4 for the class of road to which it belongs.

### Additional information
For road classes 1 to 5 and for unclassified roads, the maximum right-of-way width is established according to the width of the roadway and road shoulders. To determine the maximum right-of-way width, i.e., the maximum width that may be cleared, refer to Schedule 4. The schedule sets out right-of-way widths for winter roads, motorized all-terrain vehicle trails and trails for other uses. Other than right-of-way, roadway and shoulder width, all other characteristics given in Schedule 4 are for information only and are not provisions to observe in the application of this section.
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§3. Block cutting

Section 138

The cutting areas of a block cutting must be of variable size and form.

1

Objective

- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§3. Block cutting

Section 139

The residual forest of a block cutting must have the following characteristics:

1. have, inside the limit of the block cutting harvest site, an area at least equivalent to the area of the cutting areas of a block cutting;
2. have a width of at least 200 m;
3. be composed of forest stands 7 m or more in height over at least 80% of its area and forest stands of at least 4 m in the remaining area;
4. be composed of stands having a forest cover density greater than 40% over at least 80% of its area and from 25 to 40% over its remaining area. It may also be composed of stands having a forest cover density of 25 to 40% over more than 20% of its area, provided that that proportion is equal to or less than the proportion of the stands with such a density that are located in forests 7 m or more in height of the block cutting harvest site before the operation;
5. be composed of forest stands that can produce in commercial species a volume of mature rough merchantable timber of at least 50 m$^3$/ha or, where they cannot produce such a volume, be composed of forest stands equivalent in composition and in area to those harvested;
6. be composed of forest stands belonging in a proportion of at least 20% to the same type of forest cover as those harvested;
7. not have been the subject, in the last 10 years of harvesting, of a commercial harvest other than a sylvicultural treatment referred to in the second paragraph of section 142.

1

Objectives

- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest
- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife

Additional information

Subsection 7
The residual forest of a block cutting must not have been the subject of a commercial harvest in the last 10 years of harvesting, unless the commercial harvest was carried out using a sylvicultural treatment referred to in the second paragraph of section 142, namely:

1. a commercial thinning or selection cutting carried out according to the applicable sylvicultural prescriptions;
2. a partial cutting in a mature tree stand or in a stand that will reach maturity in less than 15 years where not more than 35% of the marketable basal area of the stand is harvested, provided that after harvesting, a marketable basal area of at least 15 m²/ha of well-spaced trees composed of species and proportions similar to those of the initial stand, is maintained.

Figure 139 Size and composition of the residual forest at a block cutting harvest site
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§3. Block cutting

Section 140

Each block cutting harvest site must be indicated in the integrated forest development plan. The foregoing also applies to the residual forest of a block cutting.

Once indicated in the plan, the residual forest of a block cutting may not be used again as residual forest for as long as the harvesting cannot be carried out in accordance with the first paragraph of section 142.

1

Objectives

- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife
- To allow for regulatory compliance to be checked

Additional information

Second paragraph

The residual forest of a block cutting may be used again as residual forest if the following two conditions are met:

- A period of ten years has elapsed from the date on which the block cutting took place.
- The regeneration has grown to an average height of 3 m in the cutting areas on the block cutting harvest site.
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§3. Block cutting

Section 141

A forest area composed of trees, shrubs or brush having an average height of 3 m or more must be preserved on the perimeter of a cutting area of a block cutting. Its width must be at least 200 m or at least 100 m if the cutting area is less than 25 ha.

The first paragraph does not apply to the part of the perimeter of a cutting area adjacent to a strip of woodland preserved along a lake or a watercourse whose width, measured at the level of the upper limit of the shores or banks, exceeds 35 m.

1

Objectives

- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest
- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife
A forest area composed of trees, shrubs or brush having an average height of 3 m or more that is at least 200 m wide must also be preserved between a residual forest and the cutting areas of a block cutting and between a residual forest and the other total cutting areas in order to be used as a corridor for the movement of wildlife.

### Objectives

- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest
- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife

### Additional information

A forest area that is at least 200 m wide, prescribed by this section on the perimeter of a cutting area of a block cutting, may be considered to be a residual forest if it satisfies all the residual forest characteristics specified in section 139.
The forest areas referred to this section must be preserved until the regeneration in the block cutting areas reaches an average height of 3 m or more.

3

Objectives

- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over temps
- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest
- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§3. Block cutting

Section 142

The residual forest of a block cutting must be preserved inside the limit of the harvest site until it may be harvested. It may be harvested only on the expiry of a 10-year period after the date on which block cutting was carried out or, if the regeneration has not yet reached after that period the average height of 3 m, until that regeneration has reached such a height.

1

Objectives

- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
- To allow wildlife to move around by maintaining connectivity between its habitat and the neighbouring residual forest
- To maintain the components of the forest cover that provide shelter for wildlife

The first paragraph does not apply to the following sylvicultural treatments carried out in a residual forest:

1. a commercial thinning or selection cutting carried out according to the applicable sylvicultural prescriptions;
2. a partial cutting in a mature tree stand or in a stand that will reach maturity in less than 15 years where not more than 35% of the marketable basal area of the stand is harvested, provided that after harvesting, a marketable basal area of at least 15 m²/ha of well-spaced trees composed of species and proportions similar to those of the initial stand, is maintained.

2

Objective

- To allow for the harvesting of timber
A residual forest of a block cutting may be crossed by a road whose deforestation width does not exceed the width of the right-of-way provided for in Schedule 4 for the class of road to which it belongs or by a watercourse whose width at the limits of the riparian ecotone does not exceed on average 35 m. At the time of indicating a residual forest in the integrated forest management plan, neither the area nor the width of the road or the watercourse may be considered in calculating the area and the width of the residual forest for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 139.

3

Objective

- To allow certain forest development activities in or near a particular place

Additional information

For road classes 1 to 5 and for unclassified roads, the maximum right-of-way width is established according to the width of the roadway and road shoulders. To determine the maximum right-of-way width, i.e., the maximum width that may be cleared, refer to Schedule 4. The schedule sets out right-of-way widths for winter roads, motorized all-terrain vehicle trails and trails for other uses. Other than right-of-way, roadway and shoulder width, all other characteristics given in Schedule 4 are for information only and are not
provisions to observe in the application of this section.

Subsections 1 and 2 of section 139 state that the residual forest of a block cutting must have the following characteristics:

1. have, inside the limit of the block cutting harvest site, and area at least equivalent to the area of the cutting areas of a block cutting;
2. have a width of at least 200 m.
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division II – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domains of the sugar bush and the balsam fir forest
§3. Block cutting

Section 143

During a harvest year, at least 60% of the total area of the total cutting areas of a development unit or other forests in the domain of the State must be planned and carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation applicable to block cutting.

1

Objective

- To distribute cutting areas and residual forest areas in space and over time
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division III – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domain of the spruce-moss forest

Section 144

In the development units or in the territorial reference units located in the bioclimatic domain of the spruce-moss stand referred to in Schedule 1, forest operations are carried out on the basis of an approach including aggregated cut blocks and timber stands.

1

Objective

- To contribute to ecosystem-based forest development

Additional information

Forest operations carried out using an approach including aggregated cut blocks and timber stands are designed to achieve ecosystem-based development (in French only) of forests in the spruce-moss bioclimatic domain.
Figure 144 Forest operations carried out using an approach including aggregated cut blocks and timber stands
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division III – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domain of the spruce-moss forest

Section 145

A minimum of 30% of the productive forest area in residual forest stands 7 m or more in height must be maintained at all times in an aggregated cut block where the trees are harvested.

That area must be well distributed in the cut block.

1

Objectives

- To contribute to ecosystem-based forest development
- To reproduce the effects of the natural disturbances to which species have adapted

Figure 144 Forest operations carried out using an approach including aggregated cut blocks and timber stands
Chapter VI – Allocation of forest operations and residual forest
Division III – Special provisions applicable to the bioclimatic domain of the spruce-moss forest

Section 146

Timber stands must occupy at least 20% of the area of a development unit and be well distributed in the unit.

1

Objectives

- To contribute to ecosystem-based forest development
- To reproduce the effects of the natural disturbances to which species have adapted

Figure 144 Forest operations carried out using an approach including aggregated cut blocks and timber stands