

18th January 2018

Circular 2/2018

To Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

Re: Change to Plantation Rule 1 – Broadleaves

As you may be aware, a 30% national broadleaf planting target is a specific condition of our State Aid approval for the Forestry Programme 2014 to 2020. Currently, the percentage broadleaves being planted is 20%. To help achieve Programme target, the minimum percentage of broadleaves in each afforestation application will change from 10% to 15% for all new Form 1s submitted to the Department from 1st February 2018.

The following rule will therefore replace the existing Plantation Rule 1 that appears on Page 15 of the *Forestry Standards Manual* (Nov. 2015).

Rule 1 (revised): *The plantation must contain a minimum of 15% broadleaves by area. This can comprise:*

- *Broadleaves planted in broadleaf GPC plots of minimum width; and/or*
- *Broadleaves planted as part of the 'at least 10% diverse' requirement for GPC 3; and/or*
- *Additional broadleaves planted for environmental and landscape reasons.*

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