Review of COFORD Forest Road Manual

Submissions

Submissions on the current Forest Road Manual are sought.

The deadline for submissions **5.00 pm, 27th January 2017**.

Submissions will be accepted by e-mail to [ForestRoadManual@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:ForestRoadManual@agriculture.gov.ie)

All submissions will be posted on the DAFM website on the following page:

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/publicconsultation/Forest Road Manual - Terms of Reference/

All submissions will be acknowledged and given full consideration by the Department.

Background.

The COFORD forest road manual was last reviewed in 2005. It has been decided that the manual should now be reviewed again.

Terms of Reference

The review will look at all aspects of the COFORD Forest Roads Manual and ensure that the designs and construction specified for forest roads are the most cost effective options, while meeting the minimum standard required for the expected life and loadings on the roads.

It is currently proposed to include the following additional elements into the roads manual:

- Recommendations in relation to passing areas, car parking areas, staking areas, double width loading areas and half bellmouths.
- The impact of fully laden (e.g. 46 tonne) lorries on the required design of forest roads.
- Increased guidance on river and stream crossings, including box culverts and alternative bridge designs (e.g. bailey bridges).
- How relaxations from the standard may be applied.
- The construction period for forest roads.
- Use of membranes and low cost local aggregate in the lower pavement.
- Changes in the D.O.E aggregate specs.
- Construction of hairpin bends.
• Outcome and any relevant additional elements the from consultation process.

The review will be limited to the COFORD Forest Road manual and will not look at the forest road grant scheme.

**Review Procedure:**

Submissions will be sought through the Departments website regarding the current Forest Road Manual and consultees may also make recommendations regarding the additional elements above.

There will be direct consultation with the sector, including registered foresters, forestry companies, IFFPA, IFA, ITGA, forest company engineers, timber hauliers, Coillte, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, County Councils, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The document will be reviewed by the ‘Reviewers’, (three of the previous authors, Tom Ryan, Henry Philips, John Dempsey as well as Robert Leonard, DAFM Engineer).

Once the document has been reviewed, the new draft text will be sent out for a further consultation to those who engaged with the consultation process or expressed an interest in being consulted on the new draft text.

In addition to the above the consultation process and associated documents and all submissions will be placed on the Forest Service consultations web page.

The document will be completed by the Reviewers and published by DAFM.

**Timeline**

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<tr>
<th>Submissions and consultation based on current document</th>
<th>5th December 2016 to 27th January 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Text completed, circulated and placed on Web.</td>
<td>26th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submissions and consultation on draft text close</td>
<td>23rd June</td>
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<td>Publish</td>
<td>4th August</td>
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