



18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

CIRCULAR 03/2020

To all Registered Foresters

**Application Procedure for Forest Road Works Licences  
Including an Entrance onto a Public Road or Material Widening of an Existing Entrance**

I would like to advise that Section 8 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 has been commenced and the Forestry (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2020 (SI No. 39 of 2020), have been signed by the Minister. This legislation makes provision for this Department to act as the single consent authority for applications for forest road works licences, where the forest road provides access to a public road (other than a national road) or there is material widening of an existing entrance. Please note that for forest road projects that provide access to a national road planning permission from the relevant Roads Authority will still be required.

From 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 applicants will no longer require planning permission from the local authority for such developments as part of the forest road works licensing process. Applications for forest roads that provide access to a public road received before this date, will require planning permission from the relevant local authority or a formal letter stating planning permission is not required.

Attached are the following documents;

1. Forestry (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2020 (SI No. 39/2020);
2. Forest Entrances – Requirements for Mandatory Consultation;
3. Technical Standard for Design of Forest Roads.

**Forest Entrances – Requirements for Mandatory Consultation**

This document sets out the application process and required documents for an application for forest road works that involves an entrance from a public road. Particular attention must be paid to the mandatory requirements, consultation process and deadlines. The document also details the application assessment process. The licensing process for such works will carry the standard public consultation and appeal processes.



## Technical Standard for Design of Forest Roads

The technical standard has been jointly developed with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The document sets out the required design and construction standards for forest entrances from public roads. Registered Foresters must familiarise themselves with this document, where they are making applications for forest road works licences, that include forest entrances. Any forest entrance designed and built in accordance with this technical standard will be considered compliant with best practice. The Departments that prepared this document reserve the right to alter it at any time and Registered Foresters must ensure they are using the most up-to-date version.

It should also be noted there is no provision in the Forestry Acts 1988 to 2014 or Forestry Regulations 2017 to 2020 that would permit a person to retrospectively apply for a licence from the Department to regularise the situation of a forest road that was built absent a required licence. Any person who undertakes works in this way, i.e. absent a required licence risks prosecution and/or a civil action, and amongst other possible sanctions, direction to remediate the land and undo any environmental harm they may have caused.

## Application Form 1

Form 1 applications for forest road works licences have been amended to include these changes. Registered Foresters must ensure they are using the most up-to-date application form from 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 as applications received that are not using this form will be returned. The changes have been built in for applications made online through IFORIS/iNet.

The abovementioned documents are available on the Department's website [here](#) and the new Form 1 applications for forest road works licences is available [here](#), under the Forest Road Scheme 2014 – 2020 drop-down.

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