

Ref: 10/2010

23 December 2010

To the Forestry Company or Forester named in the address

Changes to Afforestation Grant and Premium Schemes 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following a review of the Afforestation Grant and Premium Schemes by the Forestry Funding Review Group the following changes will take effect in respect of financial approvals issuing from 1st January 2011.

1. The grant rates have been adjusted as per the attached table.
2. The forestry premium rates remain unchanged for existing contracts.
3. For new applications there will be no differential between premiums based on the area planted. All new applications will receive the premium levels paid currently for areas greater than or equal to 6 ha but less than 12 ha (i.e. the middle category). However, the premium rates for unenclosed land have been reduced.
4. The stocking densities of oak, beech and alder have been reduced and this will have a direct impact on the cost of plants and planting and other associated costs i.e.

Alder density reduces to 2,500 stems/ha.

Oak & Beech density reduces to 3,300 stems/ha.

5. The amount of unenclosed land in any application for financial approval cannot exceed 20% of the total area. This also applies to the Native Woodland Establishment Scheme. Applications that currently have in excess of 20% unenclosed land will not be eligible for grant aid unless their application is amended to meet this new requirement. Applicants must submit a revised map and plot table prior to financial approval.
6. Provisions have been made in the grant structure to encourage the use of fencing materials that comply with IS436. Further details on this will follow.
7. The 10% broadleaf requirement, site permitting, remains in place. This requirement may now be met by (1) plots of broadleaves and (2) additional broadleaves planted for landscape and environmental reasons, which includes any broadleaves planted in a GPC 3 plot used also to satisfy the 10% diverse requirement, or a combination of these.
8. Based on the above changes, applications are now invited for financial approvals where owners are ready to plant within 14 days from 14th January 2011. Applications will only be accepted on a reprinted Form 1A (blue in colour), supplies of which will be sent to all registered forestry companies/foresters with the hard copy of this Circular this week. Applications for the time period indicated will only be accepted by post or hand delivery, must have an original signature and dated by the Applicant and must be received in Approvals Section, Johnstown Castle by 5.00 pm Friday 14th January 2011. If the number of applications exceeds the funding available financial approvals will issue in chronological order as per receipt of the original Form 1.
9. The new arrangements in relation to financial approvals in respect of Form 1B & 1C will remain as per Circular 6/2010 of 21 October. You are asked to note carefully the general conditions in relation to the new financial approval procedures as set out in that Circular particularly in relation to the submission of the new Forms.

Yours faithfully,

Gerry Fogarty

Assistant Principal

Afforestation Scheme: Grant Rates effective 1 January 2011

GPC	1 st Grant €/ha	2 nd Grant €/ha	Total €/ha	Additional Fencing Allocation €/ha IS436	(Alternative Fencing Allocation €/ha Non IS436)	Total Available Funding €/ha
1-Unenclosed	1500	500	2000	400	350	2400
2-Sitka spruce / lodgepole pine	2200	700	2900	400	350	3300
3-10% Diverse	2250	750	3000	400	350	3400
4-Diverse	2500	800	3300	400	350	3700
5-Broadleaves	3600	1100	4700	500	450	5200
6-Oak*	3800	1200	5000	500	450	5500
7-Beech*	3800	1200	5000	500	450	5500
8-Alder*	2400	800	3200	500	450	3700

*includes specification changes

Afforestation Scheme: Premium Rates (new approvals) effective 1 January 2011

GPC	Farmer	non Farmer
1-Unenclosed	155	126
2-Sitka spruce / lodgepole pine	369	181
3-10% Diverse	427	181
4-Diverse	454	181
5-Broadleaves	481	195
6-Oak	515	195
7-Beech	515	195
8-Alder	481	195