

Ref: 9/2010

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010

To the Forestry Company or Forester named in the address

### **Planting Policy for Japanese larch**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Due to the findings of the quarantine organism *Phytophthora ramorum* in Japanese larch and the serious damage being caused it has been decided to remove Japanese larch from the approved species list (Table 7, Forestry Schemes Manual (2003)) for all Department forestry schemes. In addition the Department will not include Japanese larch as a species to be replanted in any planting conditions associated with Felling licences. Based on current scientific evidence the species hybrid larch and European larch are not affected by this decision. Resulting from this change in policy the following rule changes are now introduced.

### **Afforestation Policy**

At plantation level Rule 2 (Page 13 Forestry Schemes Manual) changes to read as follows:

#### **Rule 2 - 10% Diverse conifers**

Where conifers constitute all or part of a plantation the conifers must contain a minimum of **10%** diverse conifers (i.e. approved conifer species other than Sitka spruce, lodgepole pine and Japanese larch).

In intimately mixed plots the diverse conifer species may be substituted by broadleaves from Table 7, Forestry Schemes Manual, and birch and rowan, planted in groups. These broadleaves must be silviculturally suited to the site. Broadleaves adjacent to roads and watercourses may also form part of this 10%. However this substitution is in addition to the 10% broadleaved requirement outlined in Rule 1 for plantations greater than 3 ha.

At plot level GPC 3 (Page 14 Forestry Schemes Manual) changes to read as follows:

#### **GPC 3 - 10% diverse mix**

*(Applicable to enclosed/improved land)*

This plot is made up of an intimate mix of Sitka spruce or lodgepole pine and a suitable diverse conifer other than Japanese larch (see Table 10 Forestry Schemes Manual). The diverse conifer content must be at least **10%**. This **10%** mix can be made up of trees intimately mixed through the plantation, trees planted in groups through the plantation or a combination of both where silviculturally compatible with the main species. The diverse conifer species in this intimate mix may be substituted by suitable broadleaves, including

birch, planted in groups where soils are suitable. Broadleaves adjacent to roads and watercourses may also form part of this 10%. (These broadleaves can not also be used to satisfy rule 1 in plantations greater than 3 ha).

Outstanding Form 2s and Form 3s that have Japanese larch should be submitted as normal. Any disease symptoms should be reported on the form. Where there are remedial works requiring filling in of Japanese larch this can now be substituted with other species (including Sitka spruce) to comply with the new regime. Where Japanese larch is already planted and is not infected there is no requirement to remove them.

### **Reforestation Policy**

The Department is responsible for issuing Felling Licences with replanting conditions following the clearfell of forest areas. The Department with immediate effect will cease including Japanese larch as a species to be replanted, as a licence condition.

The Department advises owners, who currently have a felling licence with a replanting condition including Japanese larch, that other diverse conifer tree species or broadleaf species suited to the site may be substituted for the Japanese larch specified in the replanting condition. The Department will inform Felling licence holders of this policy change.

Yours faithfully,

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GERRY FOGARTY

Assistant Principal