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Rules of Forest Management

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Amended by the following acts

Passed	Published	Entry into force
20.09.2007	RTL 2007, 75, 1299	01.10.2007
19.01.2009	RTL 2009, 11, 130	01.02.2009
26.03.2010	RTL 2010, 18, 316	12.04.2010
23.05.2013	RT I, 29.05.2013, 5	01.06.2013
21.02.2014	RT I, 26.02.2014, 13	01.03.2014, in part 1.07.2014
28.08.2017	RT I, 30.08.2017, 17	02.09.2017

This Regulation is established based on subsections 24 (6), (7) and (10); subsections 25 (3) and (7); subsection 28 (8¹); subsections 29 (3), (4¹), (5) and (6); subsections 30 (3) and (7); subsections 31 (3) and (4); § 33; subsections 40 (4¹)–(7) and (11), and subsections 43 (3) and (3¹) of the Forest Act.
[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 1. Scope of application the Regulation

The Rules of Forest Management (hereinafter the Rules) specify the basic requirements for forest cutting, reforestation and forest protection and the procedure for ordering and performing reforestation and forest protection expert assessments in order to ensure the sustainability of forest management and adherence to good forest management practice.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 2. Appointment of a person authorised by the Minister of the Environment

The Environmental Board is the person authorised by the Minister of the Environment upon extending the term for the implementation of reforestation methods and forest regeneration based on subsections 25 (5) and (6) of the Forest Act.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

§ 3. Clear cutting

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(1) Clear cutting is permitted in a stand, where the average age of the upper layer weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand is equal to or exceeds the rotation age of the upper layer weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.07.2014]

(1¹) Average age of the upper layer and average rotation age of the stand is calculated with the following formulae:

$A = (koef_{p11}^2 * A_{p11} + koef_{p1}^2 * A_{p12} + \dots) / (koef_{p11}^2 + koef_{p12}^2 + \dots)$, where

A Age weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand

koef_{pj} Composition coefficient of stand component in percentages

A_{pi} Age of stand component

$AK = (koef_{p11}^2 * A_{k p11} + koef_{p1}^2 * A_{k p12} + \dots) / (koef_{p11}^2 + koef_{p12}^2 + \dots)$, where

AK Rotation age weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand

(1²) Rotation ages per tree species and quality classes are the following:

Tree species	Quality class					
	1A	1	2	3	4	5; 5A
Scots pine	90	90	90	100	110	120
Norway spruce	60	70	80	90	90	90
Silver and downy birch	60	60	70	70	70	70
Aspen	30	40	40	50	50	-
Black alder	60	60	60	60	60	60
Hard broadleaved trees	90	90	100	110	120	130

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(2) If dominant tree species of a stand is a tree species not mentioned in section 1², clear cutting is permitted in any age. If a tree species not mentioned in section 1² is a stand component, but not a dominant tree species, a conventional rotation age of 30 years is used for finding the relevant weighed rotation age.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13- entry into force 01.07.2014]

(3) Clear cutting of a stand consisting dominantly of younger pine, spruce, birch, black alder and aspen is permitted, if the average breast height diameter of the dominant tree species of such a stand has achieved at least the following maturity diameter:

Dominant tree species	Quality class					
	1A	1	2	3	4	5; 5A
Scots pine	28	28	28	28	28	28
Norway spruce	26	26	26	26	26	26
Silver and downy birch	26	26	24	22	18	16
Black alder	24	24	22	22	18	16
Aspen	20	20	18	18	18	18

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(3¹) If the dominant tree species of the upper layer of a stand has been specified as more than one component in the inventory data, the average breast height diameter of the dominant tree species is calculated with the formula:

$$\bar{d} = \sqrt{\frac{k_1^2 + k_2^2 + \dots + k_i^2}{\frac{k_1^2}{\bar{d}_1^2} + \frac{k_2^2}{\bar{d}_2^2} + \dots + \frac{k_i^2}{\bar{d}_i^2}}}$$

Where

$$\bar{d}$$

– average breast height diameter of the dominant tree species of the stand;

$$k_i$$

– composition coefficient of stand component of the dominant tree species in percentages;

$$\bar{d}_i$$

– average breast height diameter of stand component of the dominant tree species.

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17- entry into force 02.09.2017]

(4) [Repealed - RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(5) Clear cutting is permitted in a stand with any age or average breast height diameter, if crop density of its upper layer is 40% or lower.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 4. Forest types, in which shelterwood cutting is permitted

[Repealed - RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.07.2014]

§ 5. Shelterwood cutting

(1) Shelterwood cutting may be carried out in a stand, where the average age of the upper layer weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand is equal to or exceeds the rotation age of the upper layer weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand specified in subsection 3 (1²) of the Rules, or which has achieved the average breast height diameter specified in subsection 3 (3).

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(2) In the event of shelterwood compartment cutting, the crop density of the upper layer of the stand after the first cutting stage may not be lower than 30%.

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(3) In the event of group selective cutting, up to five groups may be cut per hectare. In the first cutting stage, the diameter of a group may be up to 40 m; in the second cutting stage; it can be extended to up to 30 m; and in the third cutting stage, all trees can be cut in the area between groups. The area of cut gaps after the first cutting stage may not exceed 25% of the area of the stand.

(4) In the event of shelterwood strip cutting, trees may be cut from the edges of the cutting area by way of clear cutting at a width that does not exceed the average height of the forest. Single trees or groups may be cut at the width corresponding to the height of the stand next to a clearcut strip, ensuring that crop density does not fall below 50%.

(5) In the event of shelterwood cutting, the next cutting stage may be commenced when the cutting area includes at least 0.3 m tall trees of viable undergrowth of the species declared suitable based on § 15 of the Rules in amount of at least 1000 trees per hectare.

(6) In the event of shelterwood cutting, the last cutting stage may be commenced when the cutting area includes at least 0.5 m tall trees of viable undergrowth of the species declared suitable based on § 15 of the Rules in amount of at least 1500 trees per hectare.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.07.2014]

§ 6. Improvement cutting

(1) Cleaning is permitted in all stands with the average breast height diameter of up to eight centimetres, where light conditions of the main tree species require adjustment.

(2) Thinning is permitted in all stands with the average breast height diameter of more than eight centimetres, the basal area of which is larger than specified in Appendix 1 to the Rules.

(3) Sanitary cutting is permitted in a stand of any age. During sanitary cutting, the crop density of the stand may not fall below 30%.

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(4) After thinning, the basal area of upper layer of the stand may not be lower than specified in Appendix 1 to the Rules.

(5) In *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Oxalis-Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Oxalis-Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, *Hepatica*, *Filipendula*, *Oxalis* and *Oxalis* drained peatland site types of pine, birch, aspen or black alder forests, the basal area of upper layer of the stand after thinning may be 3 m²/ha lower than specified in Appendix 1 to the Rules, if after thinning there is a viable lower layer of spruce in the stand with a crop density at least 40%, or viable undergrowth of spruce in an amount of at least 1500 trees per hectare. [RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

§ 7. Trees permitted to be cut by sanitary cutting

The following trees may be cut by sanitary cutting:

- 1) dead trees;
- 2) trees with externally visible stem rot and carpophores of stem rot pathogens;

- 3) trees with excessive flow of resin due to *Heterobasidion* damage;
 - 4) trees inhabited by stem pests;
 - 5) trees, in which more than half of the crown is irreversibly damaged, and trees with dead top;
 - 6) trees with burned root collar area and surrounding forest mould;
 - 7) spruces, in which the bark is damaged up to the wood in the extent of at least 10% of stem circumference, and trees of other species, in which the bark is damaged in the extent of at least 30% of stem circumference;
 - 8) wind-thrown, storm-mangled trees, snow-breakage and snow-mangled trees;
- [RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]
- 9) seed trees that have fulfilled their function, which are not old crop trees. The function of seed trees is considered fulfilled, when the clear cut area has regenerated;
- [RT I, 30.08.2017, 17- entry into force 02.09.2017]
- 10) other trees of the layer of single trees located in forest land without forest or in young growth area, which are not old crop trees.
- [RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

§ 7¹. Stands, where selective cutting is permitted

(1) Selective cutting may be carried out in a stand, where the average age of the upper layer weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand is equal to or exceeds the rotation age of the upper layer weighed on the basis of the composition of the stand specified in subsection 3 (1²) of the Rules. The requirements specified in this article are valid for selective cutting outside the special management zone of a protected area.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.07.2014]

(2) [Repealed - RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(3) [Repealed - RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(4) After selective cutting, the basal area of the stand (m²/ha) may not be lower than:

Stand	Quality class						
	1A	1	2	3	4	5	5A
Conifer and hard broadleaved tree stands	19.0	18.0	17.0	16.0	14.0	12.0	9.5
Soft broadleaved tree stands	16.0	15.0	13.0	11.5	10.0	8.0	6.5

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

§ 8. Drag roads

(1) Drag roads with a width of up to 4 m can be established for the dragging of timber.

(2) Drag roads may not form more than 20% of the area of the cutting area.

(3) For dragging timber from the cutting area, a forest owner may establish one drag road on their registered immovable, on the forest land bordering with the cutting area.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 8¹. Timber landing

(1) The owner of a forest road is entitled to establish a timber landing with a width up to 10 m from the edge of the forest road based on a technological plan, in order to prevent damages to the forest road.

(2) The technological plan shall include at least the following data:

- 1) location of the timber landing on a map;
- 2) the number of the registered immovable and the number of the cadastral unit;
- 3) the number of the quarter and the stand compartment;
- 4) area of the timber landing.

(3) The following requirements apply to the storage of timber:

- 1) upon storage of timber, visibility shall be ensured on the forest road from the storage site at least 50 m in both directions;
 - 2) the height of a stack, except slash stack, may not exceed double length of timber;
 - 3) the stack or any part of the stack may not extend above the forest road;
 - 4) the stack may not be inclined towards the forest road;
 - 5) angle of inclination of the side of the stack may not exceed 35°;
 - 6) in the event of storage of timber above a ditch, it shall not obstruct run-off of water.
- [RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 9. Methods of and procedure for cleaning cutting areas of slash

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(1) Regeneration cutting areas shall be cleaned of slash not later than in one year from the expiration of the forest notification, if it is necessary for ensuring forest regeneration.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(2) Slash includes branches, tree tops, stem wood remaining in the cutting area, cut undergrowth and cut underwood.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(3) The following cleaning methods of cutting areas are permitted, if these do not cause damage to growing trees (including undergrowth):

1) rotting or burning of slash collected into piles or heaps;

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

2) burning slash in the whole area;

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

3) strengthening drag roads with slash;

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

4) chopping and spreading of slash;

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

5) removal of slash from the cutting area.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(4) Removal of slash from the cutting area is not permitted in alvar forests and boreal heath forests. [RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(5) Burning of slash is prohibited during a period of fire hazard.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(6) Burning slash in the whole area is permitted outside a period of fire hazard, provided that the alarm centre of the rescue service has been notified.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(7) Slash left rotting in piles or heaps may not cover more than 20% of the cutting area.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 10. Requirements set to seed trees and their preservation

(1) Trees with a good stem form, narrow and long live crown, fast growth and good health condition are preserved as seed trees.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(2) Seed trees, which are not trees, can be removed by sanitary cutting after they have fulfilled their function.

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

§ 11. Determination of seed-bearing age

If observation of certain trees does not prove the earlier start of fruit-bearing, the trees having achieved at least the following ages shall be considered having reached the seed-bearing age:

Tree species	Age in years
Scots pine	30
Silver birch	25
Black alder	40
Common oak	50
European ash	35
Wych elm	40
Fluttering elm	40

§ 12. [Repealed - RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

§ 13. Requirements set to old crop trees or trees that are necessary to ensure the biological diversity and their preservation

(1) Growing old crop trees or the preserved standing parts of such trees shall be preserved in a clear cutting area with the total volume of stem wood of at least five solid cubic metres per hectare or, in the case of a clear cutting area of over five hectares, at least ten solid cubic metres per hectare.
[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(2) Old crop trees are selected from the trees of the upper layer of various tree species with the largest diameter, preferring hard broadleaved trees, pines and aspen, as well as trees with special characteristics, such as burning marks, cavities, or large branches.

(3) In larger clear cut areas, old crop trees are preserved in groups.

(4) Old crop trees are not subject to removal and shall remain in the forest forever.
[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

§ 14. Reforestation

(1) [Repealed - RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(1¹) In the event of reforestation in *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, *Oxalis-Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Oxalis-Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Oxalis* and *Hepatica* forest site types, or during the preparation of ground, it is permitted to uproot spruce stumps in the entire area of reforestation. During uprooting of stumps, it is permitted to damage forest soil deeper than 30 cm.
[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(1²) In the event of preparation of ground in overly moist site types as water furrows and humps, it is permitted to dig water furrows with the depth of up to 40 cm.
[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(2) Clear cut areas and perished parts of the forest in stands of *Arctostaphylos*, *Cladina* and *Calluna* site types shall be reforested by pine sowing or planting.

(3) Minimum original density of places of sowing and planting shall be:

- 1) in the case of sowing of Scots pine at least 3500 places of sowing per hectare;
- 2) in the case of planting of Scots pine at least 3000 plants per hectare;
- 3) in the case of planting of Norway spruce at least 1500 plants per hectare;
- 4) in the case of sowing of silver and downy birch at least 2500 places of sowing per hectare;
- 5) in the case of planting of silver and downy birch at least 1500 plants per hectare.

(4) In the case of lower original density, sowing or planting of forest shall be considered the fostering of natural regeneration.

(5) [Repealed - RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

§ 15. Tree species suitable for the forest site type and approved for reforestation

(1) Hard broadleaved trees and tree species listed in Appendix 2 to the regulation and alien tree species permitted for use with a regulation of the Minister of the Environment are permitted for use in reforestation and are taken into account in deeming the forest as regenerated.

(2) Grey alder is permitted for use in reforestation and is taken into account in deeming the forest as regenerated only in perished or cut grey alder stands.

§ 16. Minimum number of trees per hectare required for deeming the forest as regenerated and minimum height of trees taken into account

(1) A forest is deemed as regenerated, if at least 1500 Scots pine trees with the height 0.5 m or higher, or at least 1000 Norway spruce trees with the height 0.5 m or higher, or at least 1500 common oak trees with the height 0.5 m or higher, or at least 1500 trees of other tree species taken into account in deeming the forest as regenerated with the height 1.0 m or higher are growing in an area of one hectare.

(2) Trees shall be viable and shall be located evenly throughout the entire area of reforestation. The existence of trees is not required in natural kettle holes located in clear cut areas or in perished parts of forest, on branch piles and drag roads strengthened with slash.
[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(3) In the event of reforestation with several tree species, the number of plants exceeding minimum height of every tree species shall be counted and the ratio of the number of trees to the required minimum number of trees

shall be calculated for each tree species. If the sum of such ratios is equal to or higher than 1, the area shall be deemed regenerated. The following formula is used:

$$\sum \frac{N_{pl}}{N_{pl,min}} \geq 1,$$

where N_{pl} – the number of plants exceeding minimum height of regeneration of the tree species;
 $N_{pl,min}$ – required minimum number of trees of the tree species for forest regeneration.

§ 17. The requirements for the reforestation of stands cut due to root rot

(1) Dominant tree species of the cut stand may not be used for reforestation of stands cut due to root rot, except for pine stands of *Cladina* and *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* site types.

(2) Based on the forest protection expert assessment, reforestation of a stand cut due to root rot with dominant tree species of the cut stand may be permitted, if required by the conditions of the site type.

§ 18. Procedure for the extension of terms for the implementation of reforestation methods and forest regeneration

(1) If the implementation of reforestation methods is unjustified in the first two years after regeneration cutting or perishing of the forest due to the specific natural conditions or the reasons for the perishing of the forest which are independent of the forest owner, as well as due to teaching and scientific research, the forest owner shall submit to the Environmental Board an application for extending the term for the implementation of reforestation methods on the form provided in Appendix 3 to these Rules.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(2) If forest regeneration is impossible within the term specified in subsection 24 (3) of the Forest Act due to the extension of the term for implementation of reforestation methods, the specific natural conditions or the reasons for the perishing of the forest which are independent of the forest owner, the forest owner shall submit to the Environmental Board an application for extending the term for forest regeneration on the form provided in Appendix 3 to these Rules.

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(3) The application for extending the term for the implementation of reforestation methods is considered delivered, if:

- 1) the applicant has delivered it to the Environmental Board against a signature;
- 2) the postal company has delivered the application sent by registered mail to the Environmental Board against a signature;
- 3) the applicant has transmitted the application through an electronic channel enabling unambiguous identification of the person or with a digital signature.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(4) The Environmental Board shall verify the data submitted in the application and shall assess the reasons for not applying or extending the term for the implementation of reforestation methods or extending the term for forest regeneration.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(5) The Environmental Board shall make a decision to satisfy or to reject the application in one month from the submission of the application. The decision shall specify the new term for the implementation of reforestation methods or forest regeneration, if the application is satisfied, or reasons for rejection, if the application is rejected.

[RT I, 30.08.2017, 17 - entry into force 02.09.2017]

(6) The Environmental Board shall keep the accounting of applications for extending the term for the implementation of reforestation methods or extending the term for forest regeneration.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 19. Forest protection

(1) The following is prohibited for the protection of the trees that are left growing, for natural regeneration, for the soil of the cutting area, and for the surrounding forest and forest soil:

- 1) damaging in the event of forest management the stem, crown or top of the trees not subject to cutting in the extent, which would provide basis for sanitary cutting of these trees pursuant to § 7 of the Rules;

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

2) endangering or causing major damage to the forest as an ecosystem or the gene pool of the forest, water regime of the forest or forest soil deeper than 30 cm, except in cases specified in subsections 14 (11) and (12) of the Rules, or to the conditions for forest regeneration and reforestation, or allowing wind damages or the spread of fungus diseases or pests;

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

3) [Repealed - RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(2) Upon reforestation, the upper layer of soil may not be damaged in more than 50% of the reforestation area, and upon cutting in more than 25% of the cutting area.

(3) Roads, rides, ditches, bridges and culverts damaged in the course of cutting shall be returned at least to the condition before cutting in one year from the expiration of the forest notification.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13- entry into force 01.03.2014]

(4) It is not permitted to cause permanent water damages as a result of damages to ditches and culverts, which have a negative impact on the health of the stand.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(5) Maintenance shall ensure movement possibilities for means of transport of the rescue service on forest rides.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(6) When performing forest management activities, damages to the objects of cultural heritage shall be avoided, if possible.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(7) To prevent the spread of root rot, conifer stumps may be treated with biological plant protection products or carbamide.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 20. Use of pesticides in the forest

(1) Pesticides can be used in the forest based on the results of forest protection expert assessment.

[RTL 2010, 18, 316 - entry into force 12.04.2010]

(2) Forest protection expert assessment is not required for using pesticides for protecting plants and seedlings against diseases and pests in forest nurseries and during reforestation activities.

(3) Pesticides shall be used pursuant to the procedure for using plant protection products specified in the Plant Protection Act and relevant legal acts adopted on the basis thereof.

§ 21. Term of transportation of undried and unbarked coniferous wood out of the forest

Undried and unbarked coniferous timber, except slash, shall be transported out of the forest as follows, if the volume of such timber exceeds ten solid cubic metres per hectare:

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

- 1) the wood cut from 1 September to 30 April – by 1 June;
- 2) the wood cut from 1 May to 31 August – in one month from cutting.

§ 22. Procedure for commissioning and conducting reforestation and forest protection expert assessments

(1) Reforestation expert assessment shall be conducted by the Environmental Board.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(2) To commission a reforestation expert assessment, the forest owner shall submit the relevant application to the Environmental Board on the form provided in Appendix 4 to these Rules:

[RTL 2009, 11, 130- entry into force 01.02.2009]

1) for exemption from the obligation to implement reforestation methods, if there is a natural regeneration with suitable species composition and sufficient number of plants in the whole area of a perished part of a forest or a clear cutting;

2) [Repealed - RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(3) Forest protection expert assessments shall be conducted by the Environmental Board.

[RTL 2010, 18, 316 - entry into force 12.04.2010]

(4) [Repealed - RTL 2010, 18, 316 - entry into force 12.04.2010]

(5) The Environmental Board shall initiate forest protection expert assessment based on the information received in forest notification or otherwise:

- 1) for issuing a precept to avoid forest damages and to prevent the spread thereof;
- 2) for establishing restrictions to avoid forest damages related to recreational use with the consent of the owners.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(6) To commission a forest protection expert assessment, the forest owner shall submit to the Environmental Board a forest notification of forest damages for reforestation of a forest perished due to major damages caused by storm, flood, extensive forest fire or any other force of nature (hereinafter the natural disaster) or forest with a poor state of health due to natural factors, as well as of a stand with a poor phenotype or a stand with a small basal area and crop density due to a reason independent of the forest owner.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(7) Application for conducting reforestation or forest protection expert assessment shall be considered delivered, if:

- 1) the applicant has delivered it to the Environmental Board against a signature;
- 2) the postal company has delivered the application sent by registered mail to the Environmental Board against a signature;
- 3) the applicant has transmitted the application through an electronic channel enabling unambiguous identification of the person or with a digital signature.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

(8) Reforestation expert assessment and forest protection expert assessment shall be conducted in 20 working days from the receipt of forest notification of forest damage, application of the forest owner or any other information covering the forest damage.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(9) The expert conducting reforestation expert assessment or forest protection expert assessment may extend the term of expert assessment in the period from 15 November to 15 March, if the expert assessment cannot be conducted due to weather conditions. The decision to extend the term of expert assessment shall be sent to the forest owner by the term specified in section 8 of this article, specifying the reasons for extending the term of expert assessment and the expected time of expert assessment.

(10) If possible, the forest protection expert assessment shall be conducted for the entire damaged area.

(11) A legal instrument shall be prepared for reforestation expert assessment or forest protection expert assessment, which shall include:

- 1) the reasons for conducting the expert assessment;
- 2) assessment of the condition of the forest;
- 3) expert opinion;
- 4) in the case of forest protection expert assessment, the list of forest protection activities for avoiding forest damages and preventing the spread thereof.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

(12) Records of reforestation expert assessments and forest protection expert assessments are maintained in the state register for accounting of forest resource.

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

§ 23. Specifications for forest management in the training areas of the Defence Forces and the National Defence League

Cutting shall be performed to ensure visibility in target areas and shooting fields of the training areas of the Defence Forces and the National Defence League, proceeding from the requirements set to the training areas of the Defence Forces and the National Defence League and safety requirements established in the procedure for use of the training areas of the Defence Forces and the National Defence League, after which the implementation of reforestation methods and forest regeneration is not obligatory in these areas. If such cutting is performed in stands, including in the stands where the average age of the dominant tree species is higher than specified in subsection 3 (1) of the Rules, the basal area of the upper layer of the stand after cutting may be lower than specified in Appendix 1 to the regulation.

[RTL 2009, 11, 130 - entry into force 01.02.2009]

[Appendix 1](#) Minimum limit of the basal area of the upper layer of a stand after thinning

[RT I, 26.02.2014, 13 - entry into force 01.03.2014]

[Appendix 2](#) Tree species permitted for use for reforestation and taken into account in deeming the forest as regenerated

[Appendix 3](#) Application for extending the term for forest regeneration / implementation of reforestation methods

[Appendix 4](#) Application for conducting an expert assessment