

# Specification for the compliance requirements for native timber under the Forests Act 1949

May 2025 Version 1.0

## 1. Scope

- 1.1. This specification sets out recordkeeping, reporting and approval requirements for the felling and milling of native timber subject to Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949 (Forests Act).

## 2. Referenced documents

- 2.1. Not used.

## 3. Definitions

- 3.1. In addition to the definitions set out in the Forests Act, the definitions listed below apply to this specification.

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|--|---|
| <b>Milling</b>                                 | The process of converting any native timber into sawn timber via a sawmill.   |
| <b>Milling statement</b>                       | A statement issued by the Secretary under section 67D(1)(b) to confirm that the timber being milled has been or will be harvested from a planted indigenous forest. |
| <b>Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forest Service</b> | The agency within the Ministry for Primary Industries that administers the Forests Act 1949.  |

## 4. Quality management requirements

- 4.1. Not used.

## 5. Statutory compliance

- 5.1. The Contractor shall ensure all necessary statutory approvals are obtained prior to planned construction and/or maintenance activities affecting the removal of native trees.

## 6. Assessment

- 6.1. Prior to felling any native trees, the Contractor must confirm:

- if the native tree/s are subject to either a sustainable forestry management plan or permit. The Contractor shall confirm this by checking all relevant Record/s of Title; and
- what felled native tree/s will be milled or may be possibly milled in the future.

- 6.2. These checks are to be completed as part of the development of the environmental management plans for proposed construction, maintenance or emergency works.

## 7. Sustainable forest management plan or permit

- 7.1. The Contractor shall prepare and submit an application to Te Uru Rākau for approval to fell any native trees that are subject to a sustainable forest management plan or permit. Applications to Te Uru Rākau shall be supported with a plan outlining the proposed transport infrastructure works that requires the removal of the trees subject to either a sustainable forest management plan or permit.
- 7.2. The Contractor shall submit the application to the Principal (copy [consents@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:consents@nzta.govt.nz)) for endorsement prior to submission of the application to Te Uru Rākau.

## **8. Te Matangi – Māori Partnerships**

- 8.1. If the native tree/s are to be passed to iwi or hapū, the Contractor shall advise the Principal.

## **9. Sawmills**

- 9.1. The contractor shall confirm prior to applying for a milling statement that the sawmill/s to be used hold a current and appropriate registration with Te Uru Rākau.

## **10. Milling Statement Process**

- 10.1. The Contractor shall submit all milling statement applications to the Principal (copy [consents@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:consents@nzta.govt.nz)) for endorsement prior to being submitted to Te Uru Rākau.
- 10.2. The Contractor shall then submit the signed milling statement application form along with the required supporting information to Te Uru Rākau at [indigenous.forestry@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:indigenous.forestry@mpi.govt.nz)

## **11. Compliance and monitoring**

- 11.1. The Contractor shall submit milling statements approved by Te Uru Rākau to the Principal and copy [consents@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:consents@nzta.govt.nz)
- 11.2. At the time of milling the native tree/s the Contractor shall supply a copy of the approved milling statement to the relevant registered sawmill.