

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.

Milling	The process of converting any native timber into sawn timber via a sawmill.
Milling statement	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.
Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forest Service	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) 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) 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

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

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.