

DATE: Friday, April 3, 2020

TO: WI DNR Certified Plan Writers

FROM: R.J. Wickham, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry Tax Law Section Chief (920) 369-6248 richard.wickham@wisconsin.gov

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Guidance Pertaining to the Administration of Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL) programs.

As a valued partner this correspondence serves to update you on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Division of Forestry operational guidance pertaining to the administration of Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL) programs during Gov. Evers' Safer at Home emergency order.

The Safer at Home Order recognizes the forest products industry as essential. The Department is committed to maintaining the flow of forest products with the number one priority of protecting the citizens of Wisconsin, DNR staff, and their families from the spread of COVID-19.

Tax Law Section Services

The Division has directed ALL tax law section staff to telework with the following restrictions:

- Access to assigned work stations is limited to not more than once per week for two hours to collect mail and remit fees (applications, transfers, withdrawals), printing and scanning of time sensitive critical items, and retrieval of critical files. Please note that accessing work stations is not a requirement of staff and individual work areas may experience different levels of productivity during this time.
- Field work must be approved by a supervisor and is restricted to supporting the forest industry with **only** the most time sensitive needs such as the review and approval of an MFL cutting notice (Form 2450-032) in which cutting will occur in the next 30 days.
- All in person meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

Although with some limitations, the tax section is still available to serve you and appreciates your continued cooperation in using email, phone conferencing, and Skype audio/video conferencing to maintain productivity.

June 1, 2020 MFL Application Deadline

The Division recognizes that we are all in this together and that our partners have also been impacted by the COVID-19 virus and Safer at Home Order. **After consideration, the June 1, 2020 MFL application deadline will not be modified.** Ultimately, the Department does not have authority to change the June 1 application deadline or the October 1 DNR approval deadline which are set in state statute.

Please email your Tax Law Forestry Specialist (TLFS) detailing any anticipated difficulties in meeting the June 1 application deadline. We will work with you to develop a plan to safely meet the deadlines or withdraw the 2021 application.

The current situation is dynamic and it is important to please continue to stay connected with your local TLFS regarding specific concerns.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.