

Chapter 27: Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities

When do I need a permit or a variance from the Maine Forest Service for Chapter 27 standards for timber harvesting and timber harvesting related activities?

Timber harvesting

Forestry Operations Permits are not required when operating in conformance with Chapter 27 standards in: P-SL1, P-GP, P-GP2, and P-RR, unless a permit is required below.

(Note: Must be indicated on Forest Operations Notification.)

Forestry Operations Permits are required when timber harvesting in:

- P-MA, P-SG, P-RT, P-UA subdistricts;
- P-RR subdistricts established to protect a trail;
- P-RR subdistricts established to protect a flowing water when the timber harvesting is not in conformance with the standards for timber harvesting in P-SL1 subdistricts; and
- P-FW subdistricts when an acceptable plan cannot be reach between IF&W biologist and the landowner or designated agent.

Note: Permits in P-RT, P-UA, and P-RR subdistricts established to protect a trail or flowing water require review and approval by LUPC.

Land Management Roads and Water Crossings

Bridge Construction Permits (BCP) or Road Construction Permits (RCP) are not required when operating in conformance with Chapter 27 standards in: P-WL1, P-WL2, P-SL1, P-FW, P-GP, P-GP2, P-RR, and all management subdistricts unless a permit is required below.

(Note: Must be indicated on Forest Operations Notification.)

Bridge Construction Permits (BCP) or Road Construction Permits (RCP) are required when operating in conformance with Chapter 27 standards in:

- P-AL, P-AR, P-FP, P-MA, P-RT, P-SG, and P-UA subdistricts;
- P-RR subdistricts established to protect a body of standing water if the road is less than 1,000 feet from the normal high water line of the standing body of water;
- P-WL subdistricts for land management roads not in conformance with the standards of subsection 5(E)(3) of Chapter 27 rule;
- Land Management roads that will alter one acre or more in P-WL1 and P-WL2 subdistricts and in FEMA zones A, AE, A1-30, and VE.

Note: Permits in P-RT, P-UA, and P-RR subdistricts require review and approval by the LUPC.

Variance Required

A Chapter 27 variance is required when timber harvesting operations are not in conformance with Chapter 27 standards in: P-SL1, P-GP, P-GP2, and P-RR, if no permit is required above; **and**

Landowners and applicants should first identify within which subdistricts their proposed activity is located by referring to a Land Use Guidance Map of the appropriate town, plantation or township. These maps may be obtained at http://www.maine.gov/doc/lupc/reference/zoning_maps/zoningmaps.shtml

Note: see Maine Forest Service Rules; Chapter 27 for specific details of the standards
http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/rules_regs/index.htm

Chapter 27: Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities

A Chapter 27 variance is required when land management roads and water crossings are not in conformance with Chapter 27 standards in: P-WL1, P-WL2, P-SL1, P-FW, P-GP, P-GP2, P-RR, and all management subdistricts if no permit is required above.

Gravel Extraction Less than Five Acres in Size

Permits for gravel extraction from pits less than five acres in size are not required when operating in conformance with Chapter 27 standards in: P-RR subdistrict established to protect a flowing water, gravel extraction from pits less than two acres in size in a P-SL2 subdistrict and all management subdistricts unless a permit is required below.

Permits for gravel extraction from pits less than five acres in size are required when operating in:

- P-AL, P-AR, P-FP, P-FW, P-GP, P-GP2, P-SG, and P-UA subdistricts;
- Gravel pits between two acres and five acres in size in a P-SL subdistricts; and
- FEMA zones A, AE, A1-30, and VE; or
- Gravel extraction for road purposes that are not in conformance with Chapter 27 standards.

Note: Permits for gravel pits less than five acres in size in P-RT, P-UA, and P-RR subdistricts require review and approval by the LUPC.

Variance Required

Variances do not apply to gravel extraction from pits less than five acres in size.

LUPC Protection Sub-districts:

P-AL – Accessible Lake
P-AR – Aquifer
P-FP – Flood Prone Areas
P-FW – Fish and Wildlife
P-GP – Great Ponds
P-MA – Mountain Areas

P-RR – Recreation
P-RT – Special River Transition
P-SG – Soils and Geology
P-SL – Shoreland
P-UA – Unusual Areas
P-WL – Wetlands

Landowners and applicants should first identify within which subdistricts their proposed activity is located by referring to a Land Use Guidance Map of the appropriate town, plantation or township. These maps may be obtained at http://www.maine.gov/doc/lupc/reference/zoning_maps/zoningmaps.shtml

Note: see Maine Forest Service Rules; Chapter 27 for specific details of the standards
http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/rules_regs/index.htm