



## Guyana Forestry Commission

### *Procedures for Commercial Timber Operations in Amerindian Titled Areas and Private Property in Guyana*

**Commercial timber operations in Guyana is governed by the Forest Act, the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting (2002) and other rules and regulations of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC).**

**Amerindian Communities with approved titled lands, and other Private Property Holders with approved Transport, engaging in commercial logging are required to adopt certain practices and procedures to ensure transparency, sustainable forest management practices, and forest legality during operation. These are summarized in this Information Note:**



1. The Toshao or authorized member of the Village Council or the Private Property Holder, should visit the nearest Forest Station to uplift private property removal declaration and log tracking tags, and at the same time submit a copy of the village or private property title. The GFC will issue the authorized representative with Log Tracking Tags, Removal Declaration, Removal Declaration Uplifting Register (Permit Register) and a Production Register. The stakeholder is required to produce the Removal Declaration Uplifting Register once permit is being uplifted.
2. The authorized representative should file an application for a Sawpit License (only required if operation is converting logs to lumber) and submit the required accompanying documents: list of equipments to be utilized along with their serial number, model and type, proof of ownership of equipment and a copy of the community or private property title.
3. If the Amerindian Reservation will be utilizing equipment from an external source, then the Council must enter into a legal contractual agreement with the owner. The agreement should specify the duration, type of equipments and terms of conditions of the agreement.
4. The Village Council or Private Property Holder identifies areas suitable for log or lumber depot within the reservation or the private property. If the reservation wants to stock pile produce outside of their Reservation then they have to apply for a Timber Depot License. Before extraction is facilitated from stump or at the point of felling each log and stump must be tagged correctly.
5. Removal Declaration should be correctly filled before any forest produce is removed beyond the boundaries of the Reservation or Private Property. The Removal Declaration should be surrendered to the GFC to be verified (stamped and sprayed) at the nearest forest station within 24 hours after reaching its final destination.
6. The checked Removal Declaration could be utilized to convey the produce once it could be transported as one load on one vessel or truck. If all the produce cannot be facilitated as one load then the Removal Declaration must be surrendered to the GFC and Transhipment Permits will be issued.
7. In cases where the Amerindian Village prefers to use Bill of Sale Receipt to transport produce beyond their boundaries, steps five and six must be followed and the Bill Receipt must capture the following information: Date of Removal, Removal Declaration Number (Permit Number), Species Name, Type of Produce, Number of Pieces and Volume.
8. The GFC, in collaboration with the Village Council, may periodically facilitate sample level monitoring of commercial logging operations accompanied by representatives of the Village Council or Private Property Holder. The Village Council would be formally notified of the findings of the inspection.
9. The Guyana Forestry Commission can support training needs to ensure compliance with the requirements outlined.

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