

Forest Reproductive Material Newsletter

Welcome to the first of what we plan to be a regular Newsletter keeping registered FRM suppliers, and others with an interest, informed of a range of FRM related issues and developments. It is our intention to issue newsletters as often as necessary to ensure suppliers are kept up to date of any new developments or changes as they happen.

EU equivalence with OECD scheme

In July 2007 the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) adopted a Scheme for the Certification of Forest Reproductive Material Moving in International Trade (OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme).

This scheme, whilst showing that the conditions for approval of basic material satisfy the requirements laid down in EU Directive 1999/105/EC under which we work, only allows for reproductive material to be certified in the "Source-identified" and "Selected" categories. Under the new OECD Scheme reproductive material cannot be certified in the "Qualified" or "Tested" categories.

The EU Council is set to adopt a proposal giving equivalence for material in the "Source-identified" and "Selected" categories to be imported into the EU.

Discussions are currently ongoing between the EU Commission and Member States regarding how material formerly certified by OECD in the "Qualified" or "Tested" categories should be treated. A decision is expected shortly and will be communicated to Suppliers as soon as it's known. However, until a

formal decision is made either by the EU to allow derogation or by the OECD to amend their scheme and allow certification of material in the "Qualified" and / or "Tested" categories it is **not possible** to bring such material into the UK.

Populus spp Issues

Black poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *betulifolia*)

Last year all registered suppliers of FRM were contacted by Forest Research (FR) asking those currently marketing black poplar to send in samples of what they considered being individual clones for DNA analysis.

This analysis showed that of the 83 samples sent in by suppliers, only 14 unique clones are being commercially marketed. However one of these was shown to be a hybrid and steps have been taken to prevent further marketing of this clone as black poplar. A further 9 unique clones are held by FR and these will be introduced for marketing by other suppliers.

Each of these 22 uniquely identified clones now meet the full requirements of the FRM Regulations and have been allocated individual entries in the

National Register of Approved Basic Material.

All suppliers who participated in this exercise have agreed to start using the new National Register ID's with immediate effect and consequently all licences to market material which does not meet the full requirements of the regulations previously issued have been withdrawn. No new licences will be issued for black poplar.

A report giving the full results of this work was sent to those who provided samples, but is also available free on request from any of the contacts below. Any enquires regarding this or on the future marketing of black poplar, should be addressed to Sam Samuel.

Poplar identities in the National Register of Approved Basic Material
All material of the genus *Populus* falls under the control of the FRM Regulations but this material is only recognised across Europe at this generic level, for which the code *pop* is used.

In implementing the regulations in Great Britain, we added to the controlled species specified, a large number of species native to Britain so that, on a voluntary basis, we could offer FRM control for any native material. We therefore included in this list both *Populus tremula* (aspen, code *ptr*) and *Populus nigra* var. *betulifolia* (black poplar, code *png*).

Because these *Populus* species are controlled they must be covered by the single *pop* code for all poplar species. It

is important that National Registers of Basic Material adopt a common format across all EU member States because of the transfer of FRM between member States in the single market. The codes *png* and *ptr* would not be recognised across the whole of the EU and entries based on them in our register could not be interpreted in other countries.

We have therefore withdrawn them from our list of species codes and have written to suppliers involved in the marketing of black poplar and aspen advising them of the change to the nomenclature that they must use.

Nursery Inspections

The current round of Nursery Inspections is now underway. Those Nurseries who have been selected for a visit should have been contacted by now and all inspections should be carried out by early in the new year.

A brief report, summarising the main findings of the inspections (whilst maintaining the confidentiality of individual nurseries) will appear in a future Newsletter.

National Register of Approved Basic Material

The current version of the *National Register of Approved Basic Material* is available on the Forestry Commission website at:
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf6-6judsq>.

In future a summary of recent new entries in, changes to, or deletions from the National Register will be given in this newsletter for information.

FRM Statistics

It is hoped that a regular feature of these newsletters will be the communication of statistics relating to the quantities of seed collected and the movement of FRM between member States. The figures below are the main 'headline' statistics and are for the year between 1 July and 30 June.

Seed collections

Just over 600 Master Certificates were issued for seed collected in 2006/7 with 95% of all certificates issued being for broadleaf species.

Because Master Certificates can be applied for up to 9 months after the date of collection, data for 2007/08 are still provisional and will be subject to change. Currently however nearly 500 Master Certificates have been issued for seed collected in 2007/8 and again 95% of those certificates have covered broadleaf species.

Oaks (42,000 kg), hazel (6,700kg), hawthorn (5,500kg), beech (3,200kg) and ash (2,800 kg) were main broadleaf species certified in 2006/7. 41 other broadleaf species were also certified, accounting for a further 6,300 kg of seed.

Only 6 species of conifer were certified - Sitka spruce (500kg), Scots pine (130kg), yew (72kg), juniper (10kg), lodgepole pine (9kg), and Norway spruce (5kg)

A table indicating which species was collected within each native seed zone will appear on the website shortly.

Movement between Member States

Data for the import of material into the UK comes from EU member States reporting exports from their countries. In 2007/08 we have been notified of the export to the UK of 4,523,605 plants or parts of plants and 4,650 kg of seed. This compares to 4,021,550 plants and 5,025 kg of seed in 2006/07.

The principal species of plants imported in 2007/08 were Sitka spruce, ash and pedunculate oak which accounted for over half (55%) of all imports, 23 other species made up the remaining 45%.

Just over a third of all plants came from Netherlands with a further third coming from Ireland. The remainder came from Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Export data are reported by GB suppliers who are required, by law, to notify the FC of the export of material within 14 days of the date of despatch.

3,063,670 plants were exported in 2007/8 (down from 4,160,755 in 2006/7). The most common species exported were Sitka spruce, hybrid larch, Douglas fir, pedunculate oak and common hawthorn, accounting for 87% of all exports. The remaining 13% is the total of 19 other species.

It is hoped that more detailed statistics can be published on the website and in future newsletters in due course.

National Register of Approved Basic Material in EU Member States

Each EU member state publishes its own National Register of Approved Basic Material. Individual registers or the combined EU National List are available on request from frm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The FRM (GB) Regulations 2002 – a reminder

Seed Collecting

You MUST give the Forestry Commission at least 14 days notice of your intention to collect reproductive material. Master Certificates must be applied for within 9 months of collecting the reproductive material OR before marketing, whichever is earlier

Master Certificates **CANNOT** be issued if the above timetable has not been adhered to and you cannot market FRM unless a certificate has been issued.

Exporting FRM

You MUST notify the Forestry Commission of any FRM sent to another

EU member State within 14 days of the date of dispatch.

FRM web pages

Up to date versions of the *Register of FRM Suppliers*, *The National Register of Approved Basic Material*, and the various legislation covering FRM together with many other pieces of guidance and information are available on the FRM pages of the Forestry Commission website at www.forestry.gov.uk/frm

You will also find all the forms required for notifying the FC of your intention to collect seed and applying for Master Certificates, examples of suppliers documents, and an application for registering a stand as an approved source of basic material.

However, if there is any other information you feel would be useful, or if you have any comments on the general layout of the FRM pages please do not hesitate to let us know. Our contact details are at the foot of the page.

Contacts:

- For enquires relating to the seed collection notifications, the issue of Master Certificates, registration of new suppliers or for export notifications please contact:
Pat Hunter pat.hunter@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 0131 314 6498
 or frm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- For enquires relating to Basic Material (e.g. new applications for approval or changes to existing details), please contact:
Cathleen Baldwin cathleen.baldwin@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 0131 445 6931
- For Poplar or Aspen issues or for enquiries relating to the issuing of a 'licence to market material that does not meet the full requirements of the regulations', contact:
Sam Samuel sam.samuel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 0131 445 6927
- For all other enquiries contact:
Alister Henderson alister.henderson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 0131 314 6276

6919.