

Operations Note 034

Date 1st August 2013

When can I start work under an EWGS scheme?

1. Purpose

This operations note details information on starting work under an EWGS Scheme

2. Context

On occasions the Forestry Commission receives EWGS applications for work that has already started or has even been completed e.g. a WRG application for a restocking that has already been planted. When this occurs we cannot process applications to offer grant support. The reasons for this are based on the fact that grants are given to applicants to facilitate work that would otherwise not go ahead. State aid rules offer no flexibility on this matter.

3. When exactly can I start work?

In order to make sure that you will be able to claim the grant you are applying for **you must wait for our approval before starting work**. The form this takes will depend on whether your agreement is an entirely new contract or an amendment to an existing one.

- New contract (postal): When we have approved your EWGS agreement we will send you one unsigned copy of the contract. If you are not happy with the proposals or feel you need to make an amendment then you need to return the contract un-signed but marked up with the alterations – we advise that you take a copy of the contract before returning it.
- If you are happy with the contract you need to sign it and return it to your admin hub office. We will then countersign the contract and send a copy to you for your records. **Only when you receive this final contract signed by both parties are you free to undertake the work as described within the contract and make any subsequent claim.**
- New contract (e-application): When we have approved your EWGS agreement you will receive an email which explains how to sign the contract electronically in GLOS (assuming you are also happy with the contract) **Only when you have signed online are you free to undertake the work as above.** You can also print off the contract, sign it and return it by post if you need to.

- Amendment to an existing contract: For an amendment **you must wait to receive a signed letter confirming our agreement** to the amendment with any subsequent contract alteration details.

If in any doubt at all please contact your local Woodland Officer or Admin Officer dealing with the application to confirm before starting work.

4. What about Plant Health WIG's and WRG?

If you have been served a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) to fell larch for example, and you wish to apply for WRG to restock the felled area you must still get an approved WRG contract first. **The SPHN only refers to the felling of the infected trees. The SPHN does not change EWGS application and approval requirements.**

Similarly with *Chalara* on an EWGS WCG site you must apply for an amendment to your existing EWGS application to restock the site and wait for us to issue confirmation that the Plant Health WIG has been approved before starting any removal, disposal or re-planting work.

5. Sources of further advice

The [Grants and Regulations website](#) contains all the information you need to apply for grant support. Alternatively, you can request this information from your local [Forestry Commission office](#).

Versions

Version 1 issued 01082013



English Woodland Grant Scheme



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