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.
(Notes: 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.
(Notes: 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](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](http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/rules_regs/index.htm)
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

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