

## Public Consultation by Coillte on behalf of FSC®<sup>1</sup> Forest Management Certificate Holders in Ireland

### Society of Irish Foresters - Consultation Response

The Society of Irish Foresters, founded in 1942, represents the forestry profession in Ireland. Our 700 membership comprises professional foresters predominantly but it also includes a broad cross-section of people involved with or having an interest in Ireland's forestry industry.

The Society of Irish Foresters places great emphasis on promoting professional standards in forestry among the public, and on the regulation of the forestry profession. To this end, members of the Society of Irish Foresters are bound by its Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct which embrace the practice of responsible forestry and sustainable forest management.

The Society fully supports Coillte's request for a derogation to use Cypermethrin to protect newly planted trees against attack by the large pine weevil for the following reasons:

- There is no economically viable alternative method available at present;
- Coillte is implementing an integrated pest management approach which does not rely solely on the use of pesticides for plant protection;
- There are on-going staff and contractor training programmes on the safe use of pesticides;
- The regular Environmental and Health & Safety audits carried out by FSC, PEFC and NSAI under their respective certification schemes are an important safeguard and ensure compliance with best practice.

The Society of Irish Foresters commends Coillte for the level of commitment displayed by the company in reducing the use of chemicals in forests and also in facilitating and funding the current research into biological control methods for protection against the pine weevil.

Pat O'Sullivan

Society of Irish Foresters