

DCR BOUNDARY POLICY

Regulatory Authority:

Certified Land: 304 CMR 8.00: "...to clearly marked and discernible boundaries at least to the extent required in the "Directions for the Preparation of Chapter 61 Management Plan."

Harvests on Certified Land: 304 CMR 11.00: "... in the case of classified forest land, the owner shall ... properly paint or blaze any boundaries located within fifty feet of the cutting area."

Applicability:

Certified Land in Current Use Programs: Ch61, Ch61A, Ch61B
Forest Stewardship
Green Certification (under MA certificate #)

Purpose of Policy:

The regulation recognizes the importance of identifying and maintaining property boundaries. Boundary identification is a critical part of property management, accurately assessing acreage and preventing trespass.

Maintaining boundary lines once permanently established can be easily accomplished if done on at least a 10-year basis and the paint used is specifically made for marking boundaries.

However, initially finding and marking the boundary lines can be a significant expense. In some cases, where property size is small (less than 15 ac) or the residence is located close to the boundary, marking the boundary may create an aesthetic issue.

In order to meet the requirements of the regulations, as well as balancing the factors which make identifying boundaries difficult and to helping landowners and foresters understand what the expectations are for locating, marking and maintaining boundary lines for applicable properties (see above) the following guidance is provided:

Policy:

R: Required **G:** Guidance

R: At the time of initial certification or recertification the boundary lines must be made substantially discernible so as to be able to be referenced by the State Service Forester against the property map provided. This may include painting, flagging, or signage. In situations where the boundary is a stone wall or feature easily recognizable as a boundary line at a minimum the corners must be marked.

G: Boundaries painted or blazed and painted at the time of initial certification or when the property is surveyed (if applicable) and re-painted upon each recertification, if necessary.

R: When commercial forestry activity (25mbf or 50cfs) is conducted, boundary lines shall be properly painted or blazed and painted within 50 feet of the cutting area.