

What's New in Silviculture Surveys – 2016?

Silviculture Survey Manual Changes 2016 – Highlights

(Excluding minor typo and clarification edits – specifically for recording BA):

Chapter Content Updates

Chapter 3

3.6 Basal Area Forest Cover Requirements – for all Milestones

- This section has been updated to support the new Chief Forester directive effective July 8, 2015, stating that the ave. BA in m²/ha. must be collected and reported (as a legal requirement) into RESULTS for Layer 1 stems within a SU that are > 5 m²/ha.
- An allowance for a transition of reporting this requirement has been issued, where a mandatory compliance period will not start until for all 2016 surveys.
- The best practice procedures for measuring basal area are contained in a new Appendix 4.

Chapter 9

9.2.2 Layered Survey

- The recommendation of using the MITD modification of drip line off of Layer 1 stems has been amended to re-institute the use of the 2.0m MITD for layer 3 and 4 stems if they are highly shade tolerant species.

Appendix 3: List of References and Hyperlinks

- A new *Field Guide to Forest Damage in BC* was published in 2015 in digital (PDF – for mobile device downloads) and hard copies available from the Queens Printer.
- A new Hyperlink to this document has been added into Appendix 3.

Appendix 4: Best Practices in Estimating Basal Area – including the Use of a Prism

- This Appendix content has been expanded to include a complete range of methodologies for practitioners to select, in order to aid in estimating BA – subject to the new reporting requirement. A suggested survey design approach is listed as well.
- The full guidance on the use of prisms has been retained.