
Ground Sampling Change Management Log – 2017 **(CMI/YSM/VRI)**

The following document highlights the significant changes to the ground sampling procedures and standards for 2017. This includes the Change Monitoring Inventory (CMI), Young Stand Monitoring (YSM), and Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI, i.e., Phase 2 samples, volume audit samples, etc.) programs.

This list may not be exhaustive; refer to the actual procedures and standards documents for complete and official documentation. These are available at the Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) website:

- For CMI/YSM related manuals: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/standards/gs_cmi.html
- For VRI related manuals: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/standards/gs_vri.html

CMI, YSM & VRI Procedures:

1. Explanatory text added regarding several topics, including: tree length, crown class, height to live crown, advanced regen, and grade consideration.
2. Damage agent severity codes modified (in the Appendices manual) to reflect updated procedures (from the forest health training seminars) for western spruce budworm, elythroderma needle cast, terminal weevils, and root rots.
3. Updates to the QA manual Appendix 3 (Audit Report Template) to capture QA standards changes from previous years.
4. Minor updates to text and tables throughout the QA document for grammatical correctness and formatting.

CMI & YSM Procedures:

1. Full stem map of all tagged trees is required.
2. Hidden plot procedures added back into the Appendices manual.
3. Combined CMI QA procedures (2002 version) and CMI QA standards (2016 version) into one document. This document (specifically the procedures) has been updated to match the procedures and language of the VRI QA manual where applicable, to capture the changes that have been made to general VRI/CMI QA procedures since 2002.
4. If the randomly selected quadrant for the QA of tagged trees has <20 trees, auditing will continue sequentially until 20 trees are audited (as opposed to selecting another full quadrant for QA).

5. Six (6) subjectively selected trees will be audited for stem mapping, and they will span a range of distances from the IPC.
6. QA standards for damage agents and loss indicators updated to match the standards applied under the VRI for those same attributes.

CMI & VRI Procedures:

1. For grading, a peeler grade log is not allowed if the adjacent log has butt rot.

YSM Procedures:

1. Explanatory text added regarding residual status in walkthrough samples.
2. New section describing additional damage agent procedures and measurements required for rusts and cankers.

VRI Procedures:

1. Explanatory text added regarding not replacing auxiliary plots in unmapped areas of within-polygon variation.
2. Average number of live trees per plot (based on BAF selection) is raised from 4-8 up to 6-8 live trees. In stands with high numbers of dead trees, the average should be 8-10 live and dead trees.
3. L-trees will now always be collected, regardless of suitability for height and/or age. O-trees and X-trees become (optional) subjectively selected alternate sample trees, within and outside of the 0.01 ha plot, respectively.