

# **SIMPLE SAMPLING (COAST AREA) – FAQ**

## **1. What is Simple Sampling and why was it implemented?**

- Simple Sampling (SS) is an optional alternate method of scale that is authorized by the Director of Timber Pricing Branch in accordance with Section 5(1)(c)(iii) of the *Scaling Regulation*.
- SS has the ability to reduce scaling and log handling costs for low-value timber and improve utilization of residual fibre.

## **2. How Does Simple Sampling Work?**

- It is a sampling method similar to weight scaling where loads or bundles are counted rather than weighed. Therefore, no weight scale infrastructure is required.
- Loads are randomly selected as sample loads and piece scaled. Sample selection is determined by selection programs incorporated into weight scale software that has been approved by the Ministry.
- Average volume from sample loads is multiplied by the load count to derive total billing volume. Species and grades are also based on the sample data.

## **3. Who can use Simple Sampling?**

- Simple Sampling is authorized for use for scaling low value timber harvested from the Coast Area and destined for processing at a secondary manufacturing facility.
- The timber mark holder submits a completed SS application form to the originating District.
- An applicant must provide evidence that no reasonable capacity exists to weigh scale the timber under application in an economic manner.
- To ensure the feasibility of simple sampling for all licensees, it may be requested and authorized as a unique population, or as a stratum under a Regional population.

## **4. What qualifies as Low-Value Timber?**

- For the purpose of simple sampling on the Coast low-value timber is defined as timber that will be used in a secondary manufacturing facility including; chipping & hog-grinding plants, pulp and paper mills, pellet plants, bio-energy plants, post & rail plants, firewood and cant mills.

## **5. How is the Sampling Frequency Determined?**

- Sampling frequency is determined based on the information provided in the SS application as well as historic data.
- Average estimated load size and Standard Deviation will be derived by referencing the results from previous applicable simple sampling projects.
- The sampling plan for each stratum is designed in order to provide sufficient samples to achieve a precision level acceptable to the Ministry. At a stratum level the target precision level will not be greater than 10.0%.

## **6. How is Simple Sampled Scale Volume Billed?**

- Scale returns for every load/bundle is recorded on site as if it were a weight scale event.
- A pre-determined static net weight is recorded in the net weight field of each scale return.
- HBS billing based on average volumes, species and grades from piece scaled sample loads.

## **7. What are the most important factors in achieving successful SS results?**

- Maintaining consistent load size.
- Diligent pre-sorting of timber to assemble homogenous strata (i.e. species, log size, grade and quality).
- Setting appropriate sampling frequencies.

## **8. Where can I find out more details regarding Simple Sampling?**

- For more information please go to the [Timber Pricing Branch – Scaling Page](#) .