

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](#) .