

# Simple Sampling for Low Value Timber (COAST)

## Requirements and Procedures

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1. This document provides the requirements and procedures for the use of the Simple Sampling method of scale for low value timber harvested from the Coast Area and destined for processing at a secondary manufacturing facility. This method is authorized by the Director of Timber Pricing Branch in accordance with Section 5 (1)(c)(iii) of the *Scaling Regulation*.
2. For the purpose of this document “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.
3. All applications to utilize the Simple Sampling method of scale must be submitted to the local district office where the timber tenure is held. Applicants must complete the application form provided by the Ministry and provide evidence that no reasonable capacity exists to weigh scale the timber under application in an economic manner. Applications for timber volumes in excess of 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> must be forwarded to the Regional Scaling Specialist for review.
4. There must be the capability to pre-sort material into consistent parcel sizes.
  - Controls must be maintained to ensure uniform bundles or truck loads
5. Licensee must agree to save the Crown harmless from any liability that may result from the use of the scale data by other parties.
6. Tenures issued by BCTS will require the timber sale manager’s agreement with the scaling arrangements prior to approval.
7. This method of scale cannot be used for timber that is to be exported.
8. A sampling plan must be designed to achieve the sampling plan objective and be approved by the Area office.
  - There must be a stratum for each timber sort for the operating areas they are proposing. Clients may establish additional constraints (e.g. by contractor) to meet their business requirements. Where there are significant differences in stumpage rates or operating areas, stratification by timber mark may also be required.
  - The sampling plan for each stratum will be designed in order to provide sufficient samples to achieve a sampling precision that is acceptable to the Ministry within the operating season. At a stratum level the target precision level will not be greater than 10.0%.
  - To estimate the required sampling intensity for a stratum the average load size and Standard Deviation (SD) can be derived by referencing the results from previous applicable simple sampling projects.
  - Scaled volumes are to be segregated and labelled to identify and report results as estimates that were not based on weight scale or piece scaling methods.
  - Licensee will need to advise 3<sup>rd</sup> parties that the method of scale may not be considered acceptable by other jurisdictions.
9. Rigorous controls must be in place in order to ensure unbiased sample selection (i.e. random samples) and to maintain integrity of samples. Unbiased sample selection will be ensured through

sample selection programs incorporated into weight scale software that has been approved by the Ministry.

- All samples must be scaled under conditions that limit the ability, inadvertently or otherwise, to compromise the integrity of the samples.
  - Samples will be scaled by a licensed scaler authorized in accordance with section 94(1) of the *Forest Act*.
10. Measures must be employed to ensure sample selection integrity and security. Opportunities will be made available for the Ministry to randomly inspect the production not selected as samples in order to ensure consistency of product.
11. 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.
12. Submission of all required control data to the Ministry:
- Scale returns for every load/bundle of timber removed from the harvest area, will be recorded on site as if it were a weight scale event with all required fields completed (e.g. Transport ID, LDS,).
  - **A pre-determined static net weight will be recorded in the net weight field of each scale return. The same static weight must be recorded for all returns in a stratum.**
  - All scale returns will be submitted to HBS.
  - All scale returns that are recorded and submitted to HBS will be prepared and signed by a scaler authorized to perform those tasks.
  - Any load chosen as a sample will be labelled accordingly, (correct event type SS or RS).
  - All samples will be submitted to HBS as a Sample Scale in the normal manner and will cross reference submitted “weighing event” and will include the established “static net weight”.
12. Automated billing that will adjust as the average (mean) volume per load changes throughout an operating season:
- Ratio statements will be issued for each timber mark recorded through a stratum just as happens for traditional weight scale sampling. The difference is that the ratio will only reflect volume differences between samples (i.e. the weight is static).
  - Monthly billings will occur by rolling up the static weights from submitted scale returns and volumes will be converted based on the YTD ratios. Billings will continue as an adjustment process just as happens with traditional weight scale sampling.
13. Past performance with sampling arrangements will be evaluated and considered before approval is granted.
14. Prior to commencement of work the licensee’s employee or agent must:
- Communicate in writing to indicate agreement with the above points;
  - Arrange for district staff to program the sample selector on the laptop.