

ALBERTA TIMBER SCALING SCALER TRAINING AND PERMITTING PROGRAM

2008

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1.0 PURPOSE

Timber scaling is the measurement of harvested timber to determine its net roundwood or product volume. Timber scaling is used to assess crown timber charges and ensure the sustainability of the timber resource by getting an accounting of the harvested volume. Scaling may involve the measurement of individual logs or decks of treelength timber. Timber scaling conducted for the purpose of providing harvest information to the department of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), must be done by a person holding a valid Scaler's Permit. In addition, a valid scaler's permit is also required for any person conducting check scaling on behalf of the department of Sustainable Resource Development.

The Forestry Division, of the department of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, has the legislated responsibility to set the standards for timber scaling and permitting of scalers. This policy is written by the Forest Management Branch of SRD, in accordance with the Timber Management Regulation and the Scaling Regulation.

The purpose is primarily to provide the ground rules under which the training and permitting of timber scalers shall occur in Alberta.

This document will further define the requirements for course instructors, course content and duration, obtaining and retaining a scalers permit, and examination procedures.

This document is subject to periodic review and updating.

2.0 SCALER PERMIT PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Alberta Timber Scaling Permit Program is to provide uniform training and certification to individuals to scale timber harvested in Alberta. These standards set for establishing and training scalers, will provide some assurance to government, industry, and parties having an invested interest, that timber scaling is being conducted uniformly and by qualified and competent scalers.

3.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The delivery of the Alberta Timber Scaling, Scaler Training and Permitting program is the responsibility of the Forest Management Branch.

3.1 Forest Management Branch

Sets the standards for:

- ⇒ Permit fees
- ⇒ Scaler status and renewal policy
- ⇒ Scaler course content and instruction procedures

Provides the following services:

- ⇒ Training and certification of instructors
- ⇒ Examines potential scalers
- ⇒ Updates to scaling policy
- ⇒ Develops scale manuals and scaling programs
- ⇒ Acts as a resource expert for all policy and training

3.2 The Hinton Training Centre (HTC)

The Hinton Training Centre provides support to the scaling program:

- ⇒ Co-ordination of scaler training by establishing a course and exam calendar. Handling requests for additional courses solicited outside of the calendar.
- ⇒ Maintenance of a database of scalers pertaining to their permits, status, courses attended, and current addresses. Scaler permit processing.
- ⇒ Involvement in course development and presentation.

4.0 PROGRAM CONTACTS

For information about the scaling program, contact the following individuals who are members of the Board of Examiners:

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5.0 RESOURCE REFERENCES

The Alberta Scaling Manual, which forms the basis of approved scaling practices in Alberta, is currently available on the Departmental website:
<http://srd.alberta.ca/forests/managing/sustainability/albertascalingmanual.aspx>

6.0 TRAINING COURSES

6.1 Instructors

Colleges and private institutions conduct the majority of scaler training. Only training conducted by a person so authorized to do so by the SRD Provincial Timber Scaling Supervisor, shall be recognized as acceptable to the department.

The scaling supervisor shall make the final decision as to whom may instruct (or conduct) a timber scaling course for the purpose of obtaining an Alberta scaler's permit.

An instructor candidate may be required to attend an instructor's course and or be evaluated in a classroom presentation situation. Certified instructors may be required to attend periodic instructor upgrade courses.

6.2 Admission

Applicants will be advised that a background in forestry and an aptitude for mathematics is recommended. A course candidate should be a minimum age of 18 years as a permit may not be issued to a person of lesser age.

Prospective course candidates may be required to take pre-screening evaluations.

6.3 Registration

The HTC will act as the central registry for the scaling program but local registration may occur at the forestry colleges for their own courses.

6.4 Course Fees

Fees associated with training courses are set by the instructor or training institution. The Forest Management Branch has no involvement in the structure of such fees nor does it collect any such related fees.

6.5 Course Dates and Locations

The Hinton Training Centre will maintain course and exam dates locations. A general course calendar is currently located on Hinton Training Centre's website: <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/forests/htc>.

7.0 COURSE SUMMARY

7.1 Requirement

Course attendance is a required prerequisite to take a scaling exam. There are two types of scaling courses offered. The full course is required to be taken in order to be examined for a person's initial permit. In addition, any previously permitted scaler who fails to take a recertification course within two years following the 5th year expiry date of the permit, shall be required to attend the full course.

The recertification course is for permitted scalers who are in their 5th year of their permit or have passed the 5th year expiry date but are taking a course within two years of the 5th year expiry date. Note: This provision does not validate a scaler's permit beyond the stated expiry date on the permit.

7.2 Full Course Description

Full courses shall be comprised of a minimum of 30 hours of classroom instruction with 10 hours of practical field instruction.

7.3 Re-Certification Course Description

The re-certification course is a short intensive course, which is both a quick review and evaluation of an individual's timber scaling skills. The short, or re-certification, course shall be a minimum of 16 hours in length of which 4 hours shall be field instruction.

8.0 EXAMS

8.1 Exam Fees

There is no exam fee for an initial exam.

8.2 Conducting the Exam

- Only a member of The Board of Examiners shall conduct and mark an exam. An exam candidate shall be entitled to detailed review of their exam upon request.
- Scaling examinations are held at the discretion of the Board. The Board of Examiners will make an effort to establish set exam dates throughout the year in various locations. The Board will consider exam dates outside of those established if time and resources permit. An exam solicited outside of those structured may be subject to cover the costs of an examiner.
- Exams will only be held only when there is a sufficient demand.
- Examination dates will be advertised on the HTC website.
- All exams shall be undertaken without any written or technical aids. Only scale sticks, measuring tapes, calculators, or documents authorized by the examiner, will be allowed. Disqualification may result if found using notes or getting assistance.
- The exam will consist of two parts: a written and practical exam. Candidates are given 3.0 hours for the written and 3.0 hours for the practical exam, which will require the measurement and volume compilation of a minimum of 40 logs.

8.3 Pass and Marking Standards

To pass the exam, 50% must be achieved in the written and accuracy category and a 75% overall. The marking scheme will be based as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Mark</u>
Written examination	30
Practical Examination	30*
Overall Net Scale	
Accuracy of Scale	40
(Individual log measurement, defect assessment, and species/product assignment)	

* Mark is based on the variance from scalers net scale volume of the exam logs relative to the examiners net scale.

8.4 Eligibility for Exam Rewrite

A person will be considered for an exam rewrite if an overall 50% mark is achieved. An exam rewrite is subject to a \$50 fee for each rewrite.

If a student does not attain a minimum mark of 50% they must retake the full or re-certification course as required.

9.0 SCALER PERMITS

9.1 Issuance

The Board of Examiners shall advise HTC of the exam results, and the HTC will in turn inform the exam candidates. A scaling permit may be then issued to those persons who have successfully passed the full or re-certification course and have completed and submitted an application form with a payment of \$50. The permit fee does not apply to SRD employees while they are in the employ of the department.

9.2 Term of Permit

A permit shall be valid for a period of five years, and shall expire on the date so designated on the permit.

9.3 Permit Renewal Notification

The permit issued shall state the expiry date. Although there is periodic notification sent out to those individuals whose permit will expire this is not an automated process and no guarantee that it shall occur in all instances.

It is the responsibility of the individual to maintain valid permit status.

9.4 Changes in personal Information

All permitted timber scalers are responsible to inform the Hinton Training Centre of any changes in personal information such as address, employer, or name.

10.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Senior Manager, Timber Production, Auditing and Revenue section of the Forest Management Branch shall act as an independent arbitrator in the resolution of any disputes arising from the implementation and interpretation of the policy's contained within this document.

11.0 MODIFIED SCALER PERMITS

Under the authority of section 10 of the Scaling Regulation, classes of scaler's permits may be established and such classes may specify the scope of authority that may be exercised by the holder of each class of permit.

The Department will implement programs for a modified scaler's permit. The permits shall restrict the method of scale but may also be obtained under a certified program of reduced training time and permit cost.