

Directive No. 2006-01

Date January 1, 2006

Subject

Offsite Timber Storage and Decked Timber at Harvest Site

Purpose

To provide Public Lands & Forests and timber operators with procedures to address the offsite storage of harvested timber and decked timber left at harvest areas.

To accurately track the storage of Crown and purchase timber harvested by or for timber operators, which has not been reported to the Crown.

To identify to the Departmental Forest Protection staff, values at risk.

Limit the liability associated with loss of crown revenue, ensure legislative compliance and provide industry client operational flexibility.

Policy

In situations where felled timber is left at the harvest area, the client shall provide details to the department regarding the timber. The department may establish the minimum information required to be provided with respect to the felled timber left at the harvest site.

The disposition holder or mill owner shall make application to the department for all other forms of offsite storage of timber. Use of offsite timber storage sites for a mill or disposition holder's timber requires written approval from the Area Manager detailing conditions regulating the use and reclamation of the storage site.

In all situations where the offsite storage site has not been approved as a weigh scale site, the timber shall not lose its identity as to the origin of harvest with the exception of private and salvage timber, which may be combined as one entity.

In the event there is loss or damage of stockpiled timber, the disposition holder shall be billed for such volume loss at the dues rate in effect at the time of loss for the product the department deems the timber was intended. This shall include any assessment of merchantable volume loss at sites where the timber is merchandized.

Any offsite storage, which may involve provincial road or rail access, must first obtain approval from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation for such a site.

Timber harvested and left for a period exceeding one year from the time of harvest may be forfeited and become the property of the Crown.

Procedure

General Application

The local Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation shall be contacted for all offsite storage site considerations, which involve access to or from a provincial (numbered) highway or the where the access intersects with rail lines. Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation will advise on the process and documentation required for any necessary approvals. Note: There may be situations where there is no apparent access concerns but to provide full assurance that is the situation it is encouraged that contact be made in all cases.

Once timber is harvested under an approved harvest authority, it becomes the property of the disposition holder who is liable for the accounting of this volume as well as all crown charges. The disposition holder shall provide information to the department at the end of each harvest season for any decked timber which has not been delivered to the mill site or accounted for at a Departmental approved offsite weigh scale.

In all instances of offsite storage, crown disposition timber must be segregated by the harvest authority. The timber must retain its identity until the volume is accounted for at an approved site using the methodology approved for that site. The segregation may include a physical separation, colour coding, or through the use of a departmental approved system of pre-weighing. The harvest client must be able to provide documentation to the department supporting the segregated timber.

Decked Timber at Harvest Site

When storing timber within cutblocks or at the timber harvest site, timber harvested from Crown dispositions must be removed from the disposition within 12 months following date of harvest. Consideration must also be given to the area required to store timber within a cutblock. Total area used for in-block roads, landings, brush piles and log storage areas must conform with the operating ground rules.

The disposition holder shall provide the local PLFD staff details on volumes of timber left at the cutblocks within one month following the end of seasonal operations. The information shall contain:

- Wood sources
 - Species volume
 - Location
 - Type of access required (Summer or winter)
 - Projected haul date(s)
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OffSite Storage

Considerations for the approval of offsite storage are not limited to but may include one of the following:

- Reduce winter haul traffic.
- Limited availability of log haulers.
- Stockpiling of secondary species for delivery to another mill.
- Site storage for merchandizing or stem size sort.
- Location to utilize rail transport.
- Log storage area if the production facility is full.
- Spring break prevents all decked timber from being hauled to the production facility.

All temporary storage yards must be pre-approved in writing by the PLFD Area Manager prior to use.

If the area for an offsite storage is located on Crown Land the proper Land Use Disposition will be required (i.e.: TFA, MLP, or MLL) as per the Public Lands Act.

Offsite Storage Yards – with approved scale sites

There is no formal application required for offsite storage to sites approved as a weigh scale site by the Provincial Scaling Supervisor. The department is however to be informed when such sites are to be used and standard scaling populations and scale practices will apply.

Once timber has been scaled at an offsite storage site with an approved weigh scale, the volume is reported to the Department as production effective the date it was hauled into the offsite yard and the volume is treated as if delivered to the mill site.

The department is to be informed of the final volumes (by source) of delivery to these sites.

Offsite Storage Yards – no approved scale sites

Companies requiring storage of timber in offsite yards without an approved weigh scale must submit a request in writing to use these yards and receive prior approval from the Area Manager.

Requests must contain:

- The site location(s)
 - Source(s) of wood being stored.
 - The projected number of loads and volume by source.
 - Method of source segregation.
 - Any proposed merchandizing activities at the site.
 - Anticipated dates for hauling from these yards to mill(s)
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Approval letters from Area Managers will contain the harvest source(s), estimated number of loads and volumes, requirement to segregate by source (if yard to contain any Crown wood), approval time period, requirement to progressively haul (if site is accessible during unfrozen ground conditions) and establishment of a “dry wood” population for volume accounting. A dry wood scaling population shall be considered for any timber, which has not been hauled within two (2) months following the date of delivery to the offsite. These considerations will typically apply to timber sitting during the drier spring or summer months.

The company shall be required to provide to the department, a final map of the site showing the decked timber locations, their corresponding harvest authorities, and the final volumes (by source) delivered to these sites.

Merchandizing Sites

An offsite storage site used to merchandize tree length timber into variable lengths for the purpose of log sorts etc. may incur merchantable timber loss. The department may make evaluations as to whether any merchantable timber loss has occurred and charge the volume to the respective harvest authority. The dues that shall apply to such timber will be that as per the date of the assessment.

Assessing Merchantable Volume Loss

Merchantable timber loss of unaccounted stockpiled crown timber through an event such as fire shall be declared by the timber disposition holder at the time of occurrence.

The department shall work with the disposition holder towards final determination of the volume loss. The assessment of crown charges will be based on historical use of the timber and the timber product profile from past sample scale data (if none can be obtained from the existing inventory). The rates of crown charges will be those in effect at the time of the timber loss.

Definitions

Offsite Storage Yards – areas that will be used to temporarily store timber that has not been delivered to the intended end use mill including timber decked in cutblocks, central storage areas, forwarding sites, designated remote scale sites held by the mill or designated remote scale sites held by other clients.

Authorities

Section 20 of the Public Lands Act - The Minister may authorize any person to enter on and occupy public land for a stated period and determine whether or not the public land to which the authorization relates is the subject of a disposition

Section 76(d) of the Timber Management Regulation – for the purpose of calculating timber dues and provides the Minister with the authority to determine when timber is scaled, manufactured or delivered to a mill.

Section 100(d) of the Timber Management Regulation - provides the Minister with the authority to require every person harvesting timber from

Crown lands to remove and manufacture timber as it is cut.

Section 110 of the Timber Management Regulation – felled trees and primary timber products not removed from the disposition within 12 months becomes property of the Crown.

Section 28(4) of the Forests Act – a timber licensee or permittee becomes the owner of the timber when the timber is cut.

Section 9.0 of the Alberta Ground Rules

**Cross -
Reference**

Forest Management Directive 99-02

Contacts

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Approved

Original signed January 16, 2006