



Title:	Directive - Offsite Timber Storage Sites
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Program Name:	Forest Management Branch – Timber Production, Auditing & Revenue
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Purpose

- To provide Department staff and timber disposition holders with procedures to address the storage of timber which has not been delivered to either a primary milling or production facility.
- To accurately track the storage of Crown and purchase timber harvested by or for timber disposition holders, which has not been reported to the department.
- To reduce the risk to the province of Alberta by limiting the liability associated with loss of timber royalties, ensure accurate volume determination, ensure legislative compliance and provide operational flexibility to disposition holders.
- To identify to department staff, values at risk from wildfires.

Policy Context

Alberta will establish the minimum information and requirements for any felled timber stored at offsite timber storage sites. Use of offsite timber storage sites by the disposition holder requires written approval. The disposition holder shall make application for the use of these sites on all forms of stored timber.

Procedures

General Application

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 for the payment of all crown charges. The disposition holder shall provide information to the department at the end of each timber year for any decked timber which has not been delivered to the mill site or accounted for at a departmental approved offsite weigh scale location.

The Provincial Scaling supervisor must approve all scale sites used in Alberta for the purpose of reporting timber volumes. In all situations where the offsite timber storage site has not been approved as a weigh scale site, the timber shall be segregated so that it does not lose its identity as to the origin of harvest from all Crown timber sources.

In all instances of offsite timber storage sites without an approved weigh scale, timber from Crown lands must be segregated by harvest authority. The timber must retain its harvest source identity until the volume is accounted for at an approved site. The segregation may include but not limited to, a physical separation, use of colour coding, or through the use of a departmental approved system of pre-weighing. The timber disposition holder must be able to provide documentation to the department supporting the segregated timber.

A separate scaling population is required for any timber which has not been hauled during the timber year it was harvested.

If the offsite timber storage site has an approved weigh scale, populations must be established for all wood delivered to the site. Tracking and reporting of all load weights is required and samples loads must be selected for scaling in the yards. Timber that has been scaled is to be reported to the department as production effective the date it has been hauled to the offsite timber storage site. The volume at the offsite timber storage site will be considered as if delivered to the mill site.

Timber stored at an offsite timber storage site which is left for a period exceeding one year from the time of harvest will become the property of the Crown unless an extension has been approved by the Department.

The local Alberta Transportation department will be contacted for all offsite timber storage site considerations which involve access directly to or from a provincial (numbered) highway or where the access intersects with rail lines. Alberta Transportation will advise on the process and documentation required for any necessary approvals. The written Alberta Transportation approval must accompany any request for an offsite timber storage site.

Classification of Offsite Timber Storage Sites

a) Temporary Offsite Timber Storage Site

“An offsite timber storage site that will be used to temporarily store timber that has not been delivered to the intended primary milling or production facility within the approved timber year.”

The site may be considered for approval for one or more of the following reasons:

- To reduce winter haul traffic.
- Limited availability of trucking companies for hauling.
- 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 primary milling or production facility is full.
- Early spring break prevents all harvested and decked timber from being hauled to the production facility.

If the offsite timber storage site is located on Crown Land the proper land use disposition will be required (i.e.: DML) as per the Public Lands Act.

For offsite timber storage sites along a road within an operator's forest management agreement area, approval is granted through the Annual Operating Plan (AOP). If the offsite timber storage site was not planned and approved under the AOP, the section of road and/or the area of the timber storage site is to be defined using a GPS location measuring length and width of the area for the storage yard. This is to be submitted under a Temporary Field Authority (TFA).

A TFA may be issued to the disposition holder only once for the offsite timber storage site until the appropriate land use disposition is in place for the storage activity. The timber disposition holder must have the land use disposition in place by the next timber year.

b) Secondary Log Yards

"Long-term timber storage sites similar to the sites found at either a primary milling or production facility for periods exceeding 3 years in length".

These sites must meet the following criteria:

- Accessible by all-weather roads which are under disposition;
- The site must be under DML for the designated purpose of log storage unless it is located on private land;
- Must have an approved weigh scale and reporting software unless timber has already been weighed and reported prior to storage on the site

Making Request for Offsite Timber Storage Sites

A request made to the department must contain the following information:

- Public Land disposition and legal land location
- Source(s) of wood being stored.
- The projected number of loads and volume by source.
- Method of source segregation.
- Identification and description of any proposed merchandizing activities at the site.
- Anticipated dates for hauling from these sites to a mill
- Type of storage yard requested (whether temporary or secondary)

Approval Response from the Department

Within five business days the department will provide a response to the disposition holder. If the site is approved the approval letter will confirm the following:

- The harvest source(s) permitted,
- The estimated number of loads and volumes approved,
- The requirements to segregate by source,
- The period of time the approval is in effect,

- The requirement to establish a “dry wood” population for volume accounting for timber harvested from the previous timber year (unless site has an approved weigh scale and timber has been measured and reported at the time of delivery into the site).

Reporting

The disposition holder shall provide to the department details on volumes of timber left in cutblocks and/or taken to an offsite timber storage site by the end of each timber year (April 30th) of the year within which harvesting occurred. The report shall contain the following information and be submitted as part of the Fire Control Plan:

- Wood sources
- Species and volume(s) estimates
- Site/yard approval date
- Location (disposition, land location)
- Projected haul date(s) (start and end)
- Map of the site showing the decked timber locations, deck orientation, the corresponding harvest authorities, and the final volumes (by source) delivered to these sites.

Merchandizing at Offsite Timber Storage Sites

On any offsite timber storage sites where merchandizing of timber will occur, an approved weigh scale is required for the measurement and reporting of the timber to the department prior to any merchandizing activities. The disposition holder must submit a proposal and receive approval from the department prior to commencement of any hauling operations to these yards.

The dues that shall apply to such timber will be based on the date loads are hauled to the offsite timber storage site with an approved weigh scale.

Assessing Merchantable Volume Loss

Loss of merchantable unaccounted stockpiled crown timber through an event such as fire shall be declared by the timber disposition holder at the time of occurrence. For the purposes of the calculation of the timber dues, the timber will be deemed scaled or sold when, in the opinion of the director, the timber has been destroyed.

The department shall work with the disposition holder to assess the final volume lost to the fire. 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).

Definitions

- **Timber:** all trees living or dead, of any size or species whether standing, fallen, cut or extracted.
- **Merchandizing :** the processing of a tree or log into lengths other than the original length delivered to an offsite storage yard. This includes, but is not limited to; processing to shorter lengths, removal of defect or bucking into different product classes.

- **Dry Wood** : logs or trees that have been harvested in one timber year and delivered to a primary processing facility in the following timber year or timber that has been harvested during the summer period and hauled to a storage site where the time for hauling exceeds 120 days before delivery to a primary processing site. Offsite storage yards with approved weigh scales for measurement and reporting to the Crown would not be classified as dry wood.
- **Source** : the harvest authority for the timber or logs, including Crown timber dispositions, public land dispositions or legal land locations associated with timber from private lands. Forest Management Agreements also require the working circle in addition to the FMA number.
- **Public land**: land that is administered by the Minister responsible for administration of the *Public Lands Act*.
- **Forest land**: public land intermittently covered in forest growth. It does not include other provincial Crown lands administered by any other provincial Minister or any federal Crown lands.

Authorities

Delegation of Authority under the *Forests Act*

- **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 76.1 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(1)(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.

Cross -Reference

Section 3.3.5 of the Alberta Ground Rules
Forest Management Directive 99-02

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Approved:

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