

Directive No. 98-03 **Date** May 1, 1998

Subject

Quota Production Chargeability

Purpose

To manage forest resources at sustainable harvest levels.

To control and record timber production to ensure that harvest levels do not exceed the **authorized quadrant allowable cut** on a **quota** certificate.

Policy

The policy stated in this directive applies to all quota and **Forest Management Agreement (FMA)** areas unless otherwise approved in the FMA or **Detailed Forest Management Plan (DFMP)**.

The first quadrant to which this policy can be applied is the 1996/2001 quadrant.

Timber volumes chargeable against the **quota quadrant's** production are those volumes which have been included as protocols in the calculation of the **Forest Management Unit's (FMU) annual allowable cut (AAC)**. Quota production volumes will be summarized, for each quota certificate, reflecting the AAC protocols used in the Detailed Forest Management Plan of the FMU. The use of 'quota chargeability' throughout this directive refers only to quota production chargeability.

The following are examples of non-quota chargeable volumes:

1. Tops of trees that are above (i.e. smaller than) the top diameter **utilization standard** of the timber disposition.
2. Trees smaller than the disposition's stump diameter limit.
3. Merchantable **dead** timber not included in the current AAC determination.
4. Any volume gained as a result of the product volume (converted to roundwood equivalent) exceeding the weigh scaled determined volume.
5. Timber removed from even age stands under an approved Commercial Thinning plan.
6. **Secondary species group** (incidental) volumes not included in the AAC, but accounted for and tracked as part of the approved **Annual Operating Plan (AOP)**.
7. Dead timber that was included in the current AAC determination, and salvage volumes harvested as directed by the Minister due to fire kill or insect damage are chargeable to the authorized quadrant production. If the salvage volume requires harvest exceeding the quadrant production level, the Minister will provide for salvage to continue without volumes above the authorized quadrant allowable cut being charged to the quota quadrant's production. The AAC of the FMU will then be recalculated to reflect these salvage activities.

A review of this policy may be initiated by either the Department or the industry sector. This review will be a consultative process, with the aim

being mutually agreed upon content being incorporated into the policy.

Procedure

Measuring Quota Production

Timber Volume Measurement

Timber volumes will be calculated as per the procedures approved in the Alberta Scaling Manual. The volumes reported as quota production and those used for timber dues assessment might not be the same.

Even age Thinning - Volumes will be non-quota chargeable for **commercial thinning** only under a department approved thinning plan. A commitment for monitoring, with interim performance benchmarks, until the final harvest following the thinning operation must be made. This monitoring program will be used to assess the long term success of the operation. Generally, thinning volumes from pine stands averaging less than 80 years of age and spruce stands averaging less than 100 years will qualify for non-quota chargeable production, subject to special conditions and thinning plan approval.

Uneven age Thinning - Thinning operations that take place in uneven aged stands will be considered selection harvesting, with all production chargeable against the quota.

Chargeability for Overlapping Dispositions (FMA, Deciduous Timber Allocation (DTA), or Coniferous Timber Quota (CTQ))

The initial harvesting operations may include approval to remove the secondary species. For example, CTQ operations under a Coniferous Timber Licence (CTL) may necessitate the felling of associated deciduous timber. Where the deciduous timber is unallocated, the approval of the AOP will direct the timber rights. Where the timber rights are held within the FMU under either an **Miscellaneous Timber Use (MTU)** permit, DTA, or FMA, the CTL holder must offer the timber to the deciduous disposition holder(s) at a fair market price. In all of the above, the timber volume is chargeable to the deciduous disposition holder's quota.

Disposition holders must operate under any secondary species conditions present in their approved AOP. For example, either the deciduous rights holder will commence harvest activities following the completion of the CTL holder's operations or the CTL holder will harvest the deciduous volume and offer it to the deciduous operator.

Where the holder of a DTA or deciduous FMA is completing the first pass harvest and the coniferous volume exceeds 47.5m³/ha (defined as stands included in the coniferous landbase and AAC) the volume is chargeable to the CTQ or FMA disposition that holds the coniferous timber rights. Where the deciduous operations result in incidental coniferous volumes being harvested (coniferous volumes from timber type stands less than 47.5m³/ha) the volume is chargeable as per the Forest Management Plan allocation.

Commercial Timber Permits for Quota Quadrant Under-Production

As outlined in the Quadrant Under-Production Directive, timber permits may be issued for volumes up to the under-produced quadrant volume. Any volume produced in excess of that authorized by such a permit shall be charged to the quota quadrant in which the harvest occurred.

Merchantable Timber Wastage

The Department may, as a result of a residue / waste analysis study, charge wasted merchantable timber volume against the timber disposition.

Authorities

Section 21 of the Forests Act - outlines the requirements and conditions that must be met to receive a timber licence

Section 4 of the Timber Management Regulation - the holder of a quota must obtain a timber licence authorizing timber harvest.

Section 17 of the Timber Management Regulation - Minister may allow harvest of any size or species of timber not taken into account in determining quota without charge against that quota.

Cross- Reference

- Alberta Scaling Manual
- LFD Directive 97-01 “**Quota Quadrant Under-Production - Allocation of Permits**”

Contacts

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