

Title:	Directive - Approval of Exceptions to General Rate of Timber Dues
Number:	AF, Forestry Policy, 2015, No. 6
Program Name:	Forest Management Branch- Timber Production, Auditing and Revenue
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Purpose

To provide procedures for the review and evaluation of requests for the application of reduced timber dues contained within Division 2, General Rate of Timber Dues – Timber Management Regulation.

Policy Context

Where the value associated with either coniferous or deciduous timber is low or hauling costs are high for specific end products, the Timber Management Regulation provides for exceptions to the general rate of timber dues to reflect the lower economic value for this wood.

These procedures only apply to timber that is scaled or measured and identified separately to the satisfaction of the Director and must be approved prior to any hauling of this timber.

Dues exceptions can only be granted under either an approval letter from the Forest Management Branch or through approved scaling practices.

Procedure

Dues Exceptions Requiring Written Approval

Timber applicable for exceptions to the general rate of timber dues includes:

- timber that has suffered significant damage due to fire, wind, insects or disease;
- timber that is dead or damaged by interior rot;
- timber that has been cut for the purposes of improving stand yield;
- timber that has been cut to perpetuate an unevenly aged stand;
- timber in an area that is endangered by acts of nature or by development that is not authorized under the Act; or
- timber that is 150 kilometres or greater from the mill.

All dues requests for these categories received from timber operators are to be submitted to both the appropriate field office and Forest Management Branch for review. Staff in the field offices will provide recommendations confirming that the timber being requested for dues exceptions meets the criteria as outlined in the appropriate section within the Timber Management Regulation. Recommendations from field staff supporting company requests for dues exceptions are to be sent to Forest Management Branch. The Forest Management Branch is responsible for drafting the approval to grant dues exceptions based on information supplied by the timber operator and recommendations received from the field office.

All approval letters will contain the requirements to scale and report the timber to be eligible for the dues exceptions and will expire at the end of each timber year. Extensions will require timber operators to re-apply at the end of the timber year.

1. Mountain Pine Beetle

- Volume eligible for dues exception for Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infested timber will be determined by identification of logs through the sample scaling process. Trees exhibiting blue stain, pitch pockets or larvae galleries can be identified and scaled as beetle killed (BK) timber.
- If entire stands of MPB infested pine trees are harvested within a single block, a population may be established to record all pine trees as beetle killed and identification through scaling will not be required.
- Field staff are to provide confirmation to the Forest Management Branch that tenures being harvested have the presence of mountain pine beetle infestations. Identification of logs with MPB found during sample scaling will determine the volume of pine that will be classified as beetle killed and appropriate timber dues assessed for this volume.
- Any population that has been established to scale MPB logs must only include tenures that field staff have identified and confirmed to have MPB outbreaks. Field staff must ensure that any disposition associated with population has some level of MPB infestation.
- Lumber, conifer pulp, and laminated veneer lumber are the only products eligible for dues reductions for timber affected by Mountain Pine Beetle.
- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(6) and s.89.2(6)

Note : Timber that has infestations of tent caterpillar or spruce budworm are not eligible for dues exceptions as these types of infestations do not cause immediate death of the tree.

2. Wind damaged timber

- Wind damaged timber that results in broken tops or complete blow down of trees will be eligible for exceptions to the general rate of timber dues.

- All requests for dues exceptions must contain information on the disposition number, the cutblocks affected (must be in ARIS format) and either a volume per block or a percent of stems affected.
- The methodology to determine either the volume or percent of trees damaged can include field surveys or aerial identification of damaged stems. The methodology used must be approved by the field staff and an agreement reached on this process. The methodology is not limited to the two examples provided as long as agreement can be reached between the company and Department staff.
- If an extensive area is damaged and trees can be segregated and decked separately from any green undamaged trees then a separate population can be established to determine the volume of damaged timber delivered to a mill.
- Lumber, conifer pulp, and laminated veneer lumber are the only products eligible for dues relief for timber that has been damaged by wind.
- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(6) and s.89.2(6)

3. Fire damaged timber

- Dues exception for timber that has been impacted by wildfires will be considered dead and will be eligible for exceptions to the general rate of timber dues.
- Companies will be required to submit a Notice of Intent to Salvage to field offices which will assist in completing the allocation of available salvage timber.
- Field staff will provide confirmation to Forest Management Branch for approval of dues exceptions if all conditions can be satisfactorily met and operational plans have been developed.
- Residual areas of green timber within the fire perimeter which show evidence of blowdown (includes trees with severe root burn) may be treated as endangered timber eligible for dues exceptions.
- Separate populations must be established for firekilled timber. Endangered or green timber within the fire perimeter will be scaled separate from firekilled timber and either an estimate of volume or percent of trees identified as endangered will be required.
- Lumber, conifer pulp, deciduous pulp, veneer and laminated veneer lumber are the only products eligible for dues relief for firekilled timber.
- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(6), s.85(4), s.87(6), s.89(2.1) and s.89.2(6)

4. Dead timber or damage by interior rot

- Dues exceptions for timber that has been classified as dead or damaged will be eligible for exceptions to the general rate of timber dues. Dead timber must be either segregated into a separate population or, if minor amounts of dead timber are included in green loads, it can be identified and scaled with the green timber.

- To be eligible for reduction in dues, timber under this category must be within an area of 4 hectares or more and 15% or more of the timber is dead or damaged by interior rot or other defects.
- Dead timber will be identified as stems with no green foliage or stems that exhibit loose sloughing bark.
- Where minor amounts of dead timber will be harvested and hauled with green timber, dead timber can be included on the scaling population sheets (TM262). Field staff will advise companies on the criteria for identifying dead timber when scaling sample loads.
- Lumber, conifer pulp, oriented strand board, veneer and laminated veneer lumber are the only products eligible for dues relief for dead timber.
- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(7), s.85(4), s.89(2.1) and s.89.2(7)

5. Timber cut for improving stand yield or perpetuate unevenly aged timber

- Dues reductions for timber harvested to improve stand yield at final harvest or to promote unevenly aged timber will be eligible for exceptions to the general rate of timber dues.
- All requests for dues exceptions must contain information on the disposition number, the cutblocks affected (must be in ARIS format), a volume estimate and a program to achieve the objectives for stand yield or promoting unevenly aged timber. Proposals must identify stands which are currently in an overstocked stage to be eligible for dues modifiers or stands which will be managed to perpetuate an unevenly aged stand of coniferous timber.
- Lumber, conifer pulp, and laminated veneer lumber are the only products eligible for dues relief for dead timber.
- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(8), s.81(9), s.89.2(8) and s.89.2(9)

6. Timber classified as endangered

- Dues reductions for endangered timber are only applicable for timber that is endangered by acts of nature or by development that is not authorized under the Act.
- Timber affected by fires which show evidence of blowdown or severe root burn may be classified as endangered timber. Other examples of endangered timber would include timber associated with oil/gas facility construction or expansion, fence line right-of-way construction, etc.
- All requests for dues exceptions for endangered timber must contain information on the disposition number, the cutblocks affected (must be in ARIS format) and either a volume estimate or percent of stems affected.
- Lumber, conifer pulp, oriented strand board, deciduous pulp and laminated veneer lumber are the only products eligible for dues relief for endangered timber.

- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(10), s.85(4.2), s.87(6) and s.89.2(10)

7. Timber Greater than 150 kilometers from mill

- Where the director is satisfied that the distance by road using a reasonable route from the location where the timber is harvested to the mill in which the timber is made into either oriented strand board or veneer is 150 kilometers or greater, the timber dues are 50% of the rate calculated under the schedule for that product.
- All requests must contain information on the disposition number, the cutblocks affected (must be in ARIS format) and distance for each cutblock to the mill. A map with the cutblocks and route would be beneficial.
- OSB and veneer are the only products eligible for dues reductions for distance modifiers.
- Timber Management Regulation : s.85(4.3) and s.89 (2.2)

Dues Exceptions Not Requiring Written Approval – Identification Through Scaling Practices

The following categories do not require an approval letter for dues exceptions. Exceptions for these categories will be determined through scaling practices or associated with the conditions on the timber disposition:

- Species;
- Piece size; or
- Remote locations

Species

Dues exceptions are applicable for timber used in the manufacture of lumber, coniferous pulp, veneer and laminated veneer lumber for the following species:

- balsam fir, white bark pine, alpine fir and larch:
- jack pine (including hybrids of pine) from forest management units A04 to A14, L01 to L09, L51 and S07.

Dues exceptions are applicable for timber used in the manufacture of oriented strand board for the following species:

- balsam poplar.

Dues exceptions will be determined and applied through the identification of these tree species during timber scaling.

- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(2), s.85(2), s.89(2) and s.89.2(2)

Piece size

Piece size refers to timber that is measured and identified as either small stem logs, trees defined as not merchantable or that portion of a log that is smaller in diameter than the top diameter of the utilization standard.

Dues exceptions will be determined through identification during sample load scaling. A separate population will be required for timber harvested from a marginal stand used in the manufacture of coniferous pulp to allow for the measurement of timber as a marginal sawlog.

- Timber Management Regulation : s.81(3), s.85(5), s.87(3), s.89.2(3) and s.89.2(4)

Remote location

Dues exceptions are applicable for timber used in the manufacture of oriented strand board or veneer from locations north of townships 96 or south of townships 38.

Deciduous timber used in the manufacture of pulp harvested in remote zones as shown in the Timber Management Regulation are eligible for dues exceptions.

Dispositions located in these remote zones are identified during disposition setup and dues exceptions are automatically calculated at the time companies submit their load weight information.

- Timber Management Regulation : s.85(3), s.87(5) and s.89(4)

Definitions

Endangered timber – timber in an area is endangered by acts of nature or by development that is not authorized under the Act.

Contact Information

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Authorities

Timber Management Regulation

Scaling Regulation

Original signed by

Date

Darren Tapp

October 7th, 2015

Executive Director