

**Re: Procedures for Harvesting, Transporting Scaling, and Billing of Firewood within the Northern Interior Forest Region**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this procedure is to provide direction to districts within the Northern Interior Forest Region concerning the harvesting, transporting, scaling and billing of firewood and fuelwood.

**Scope:** Throughout this section, *firewood* refers to the description of the Special forest Product “Firewood” (FW) and *fuelwood* refers to (generally) low quality timber or logs deemed to be for the purposes of firewood.

**Reference:** *Parts 3, 5 and 6 of the Forest Act, Scaling Regulation, Timber Marking and Transport Regulation and Chapter 8 of the Scaling manual.*



**1. Free Use Permit (FUP):** A person that requires firewood for their personal domestic purposes may harvest up to 50 cubic meters per year in accordance with the following conditions:

- Firewood should conform to the Special Forest Product description outlined in Section 8.2.2 of Chapter 8, in the Scaling Manual.
- Generally it will be transported by pick-up truck or utility trailer.
- Some Forest Districts may require the person to carry a copy of the Free Use Permit.
- In this situation a person is exempt from the Mark Site Designation process, load description slips, the marking of timber and the scaling of timber.
- Harvesting should be from dead, dry, and down material on vacant crown land. No harvesting should occur from riparian zones, reserved timber, wildlife trees, decked timber, parks or recreation areas.
- Free Use Permits apply only to Provincial crown land.
- If unclear about the status of the land or the timber being cut the onus is on the individual harvesting the firewood to not cut until he has checked the status of the timber or land with Forest District office or area licensee.

**2. Timber harvested from cruised-based, cash sales and other area based tenures (such as oil and gas area based tenures):**

- There is no requirement to have this timber primary scaled.
- Timber transported by commercial vehicles (such as a logging truck) must be designated to a scale site (unless exempted by the District of origin).
- Timber must be marked with the Timbermark describing the area from which the timber originated and transporters must have a valid load description slip, as outlined in the Timber Marking and Transportation Regulation.
- The load description slip (white copy) must be submitted to the receiving Forest District office within six (6) days after delivery so it can be attached to scale documents and reconciled with the mark site designation.

**3. Timber harvested from stumpage bearing timber from scale-based tenures:**

- Timber must be designated to a scale site according to the district Mark Site Designation procedure.
- Timber must be marked with the Timbermark describing the area from which the timber originated and transporters must have a valid load description slip as outlined in the *Timber Marking and Transportation Regulation*.
- The district of origin will communicate the designation and method of scale for the timber, to the receiving district.
- Timber must be scaled as outlined in *Section 4, Scaling Options*.

**4. Scaling options:**

a) Applies to timber from scale-based tenures, and

b) Will be at the discretion of the individual district of the origin of the timber and dependent on specific circumstances and/or revenue risks associated with the situation.

1. Scaling may be done at an authorized scale site by a licensed and authorized scaler.
2. Licensee or their designate will submit the scale using the *FS 701 Volume Estimate – Other* form, with the *FS 649 Load Description Slip*, within six (6) days of delivery of the logs, to the receiving District office. The submission must have both a grade and volume estimate. Upon receipt of the form, the load may be inspected by Ministry of Forests and Range staff. The Ministry has the option of calling a second scale if the volume or grade estimate seems unreasonable.
3. In some cases the district receiving the timber may conduct the original scale using their own staff.

If option 2 or 3 is used, Ministry of Forests and Range district staff will enter the information into the Harvest Billing System for billing.