

ALBERTA SCALING MANUAL

SCALING DECKED OR STACKED TIMBER

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10.0 Scaling Decked or Stacked Timber

Alberta allows the use of scaling methods to scale Crown timber (Smalian, Cube Scale and limited application of tree length scale), but there are many other methods used to estimate the volume of sound wood in a load, stack, or pile. The following two methods may not be used for scaling for the purpose of Crown dues determination, but they are sometimes used when other methods are not feasible.

Written authorization from the office of the Timber Scaling Supervisor is required before these methods can be employed, and such authorization will only be considered when it can be proven that the three standard methods are not feasible.

10.1 Tree-Length Scaling

Tree length scaling has had limited application in Alberta due to the inherent variation experienced with this form of scaling. There have been situations however where a volume of decked tree length logs may be required and mass scaling or total log scale is not feasible.

These situations include:

1. Determining the volume of a trespass cut or unauthorized harvest,
2. Estimating the volume to be offered up as a result of decked industrial salvage,
3. Determining the volume for harvest contractor payment, or
4. Determining an estimate of on hand yard inventory.

This manual later details procedures for scaling for such situations through the development of a local volume table.

10.1.1 Accuracy

This method of scale is on average close to three times the variation experienced by mass scaling. The results of tree length scale are further dependent on variables such as:

1. Desired accuracy.
2. Availability of applicable local volume tables.
3. The number of stems involved.

4. Introduced bias in measurement or sampling procedures.
5. Uniformity of the timber in terms of species, length, size, and taper.

This scale method can involve a significant amount of work and evaluation to ensure a statistical sample particularly where a local volume table is intended to be constructed. However if the objective is just to obtain a quick rough volume estimate with no statistical validity, then this can be accomplished with much less effort. The key to this scale approach is to answer the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of the scale? Is the application going to be long or short term?
2. How defensible must the volume determination be?
3. To what extent am I prepared to scale in order to achieve the desired results?

In general, this scale method is considered to be more accurate than a block or stacked scale but much less accurate than a scale involving measurement of bucked logs from the tree length pieces.

10.1.2 Procedures

Tree length scale involves the collection or use of four pieces of information:

1. Determining the total number of stems;
2. Determining the distribution of butt sizes;
3. Calculating a table for the average gross volume per stem by butt diameter; and;
4. Calculating the percent of cull.

10.1.3 Stem Count

The purpose for having a total stem count is to project the total volume where sampling occurs. If you measure 20 out of 100 trees then the total volume would be five (20/100) times the volume of the sampled trees. If the number of stems involved in the scale is under 300 then all stems should be measured and a separate stem count is not necessary. However, where not all stems are to be measured, and sampling of the decks is to occur, then a total stem or tree count is required.

10.1.4 Butt Size Distribution

A volume table will either be used or constructed based on the diameter at the large end (butt) of the tree length piece. Although there is generally larger error in measuring butt diameters, for decked tree length timber this is the only accessible diameter available for measurement on all pieces. In choosing the method for butt distribution, the amount of work and the desired accuracy must be considered.

One of the following methods may be used.

1. **Total Tally.** If the total number of pieces is relatively small or a high accuracy is required, measure and tally the butt diameter on all the stems.
2. **Samples of Butt Distributions.** Sample areas are blocked out on the face of the pile (see Figure 11.1). The butt diameters in the area are measured and tallied.

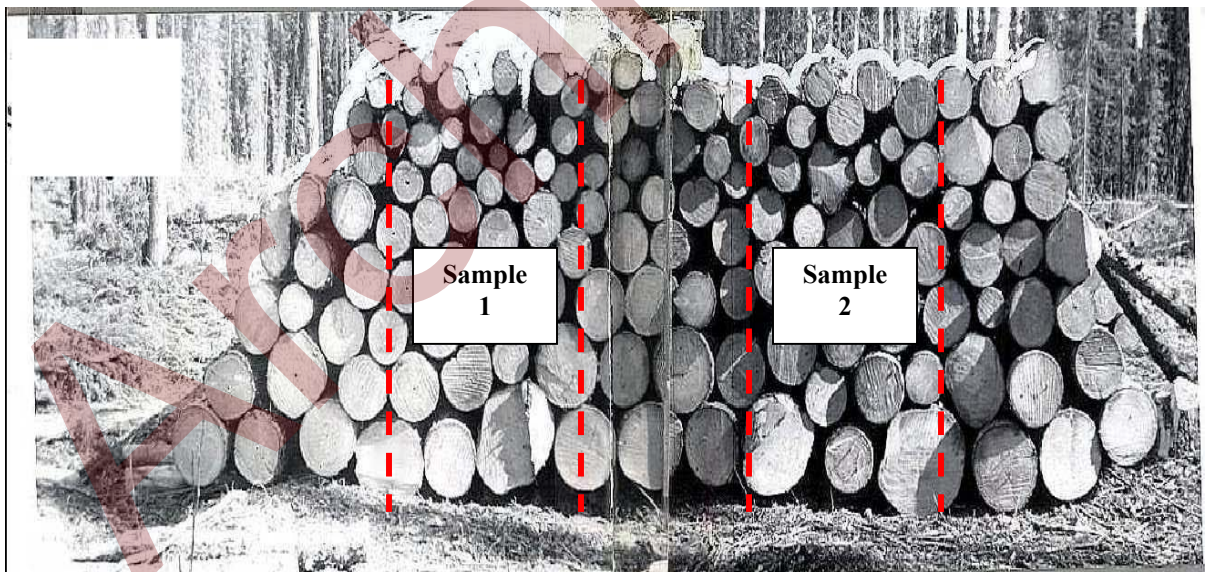


Figure 10.1 - Samples of Butt Distributions

Consider the following when determining butt distribution samples:

To reduce the possibility of bias, the sample area should enclose a block extending from the bottom to the top of the pile.

Sample areas should be at least 1 m in width and established at fixed intervals along the pile. The 2-m width is considered optimum. The number of samples depends on the variation in log sizes from one sample to the other.

Note: Only butt diameters where the face is more than halfway into the sample area are to be considered as part of the sample.

When measuring butt diameters, remember to reduce the diameter for butt swell. As outlined in the individual log scaling procedures, this is done by projecting the normal taper to the large end of the log.

The amount of sampling that is required depends on the following:

1. For small groups (under 300 pieces), the distribution should be developed by measuring all logs.
2. When the number of pieces is greater than 300 and fewer than 2000, a 50% sample is suggested to determine the butt distribution. An alternative is to assess the amount of variation and then calculate the number of samples required.
3. A tentative sample should be taken for larger groups. Then the variation can be calculated and the correct amount of sampling can be determined. Remember that in cases of uniform groups, calculating the variation and the required number of samples may save considerable fieldwork. Refer to Appendix 4 for an example of how to calculate the sampling intensity for butt distributions.

10.1.5 Volume Table Creation

Once you have established the butt diameters of the tree length pieces then it is necessary to attach a volume to each. Keep in mind the top diameter to which you must determine the volume for. Common top diameters, which will be used, will be 10 or 11 cm. In instances of crown timber seizures, the top diameter corresponding to the timber disposition is used. The volume for each tree length piece may be obtained from a few different sources:

1. Historical regional or local volume tables.
2. PLFD “Ecologically Based Individual Tree Volume Tables”
3. Development of a volume table based on the timber being scaled.

Historical tables – Use such tables with some caution. Ensure the tables were constructed with sufficient data to ensure statistical validity and the scale method to derive the tables was conducted by an approved methodology. The species, and top diameters must also be consistent with the timber to be scaled. In addition, it is common to construct a series of such tables based on the average length of the trees to the specified top diameter. This requires establishing the same variable and using the appropriate table.

PLFD Tree Volume Tables- These series of tables were constructed from several thousand trees sectioned throughout the province. The tables are built for various species, regions, and top diameters. The tables were compiled based on taking butt diameters outside bark at the 0.3 metre height and measured total tree height. In order to use these tables, adjustments must be made to address butt diameter measurements taken inside bark at the point of felling as well as the possibility that the trees have been cut at a minimum top diameter. The complexity of these adjustments may render these tables unusable for your purpose.

Development of a Local Volume Table

Although it takes a little extra work, volume tables prepared from the trees being scaled will probably give you the best accuracy. This data may be used later for adjacent areas or to develop regional volume tables.

When collecting tree volume information, consider the following:

1. The diameters of the trees for volume samples should be collected in about the same proportion as the butt diameter distribution in the butt distribution samples.
2. The number of samples may be calculated as follows:

$$n = \frac{(N \times t^2) \times (C^2)}{(N \times E^2) + (t^2 \times C^2)}$$

Where: N = total number of stems in the group
 n = number of samples required
 t = 2 (probability)
 E = 5 (allowable sampling error)
 C = Coefficient of variation (%)

If the coefficient of variation is unknown, the average of 23% may be used. However, as groups are sampled, the coefficient of variation should be calculated for future reference in determining the samples required.

The sampling percentage may be calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ sampling} = \frac{n \times 100}{N}$$

Apply this percentage to the tally on each butt class to arrive at the number of samples required for each class.

Consider the following when measuring the trees for volume tables:

1. When measuring the trees for volume tables, it is best if trees are bucked. However, as this is not always possible, the measurements may be taken along the tree using calipers. Allow for bark thickness (1 cm) if a caliper is used. For ease of measurement, measure the diameter at fixed intervals up the tree (i.e., 4.8 m or 5.0 m).
2. Use the Smalian Scale for calculating volumes. Figures 10.2 and 10.3 illustrate the use of the Log Scale Tally Sheet to tally and calculate the volume for each tree.
3. If the trees are in decks, select trees along the top of the pile where they can be measured properly.

Once the gross volumes are calculated for each tree, the butt to gross volume relationship can be determined by plotting the average volume for each butt diameter on a graph and drawing a curve. It is, however, faster and probably more accurate to calculate the curve using a regression formula that is part of a computer program.

**SMALIAN
LOG SCALE TALLY SHEET**

DISPOSITION HOLDER				MILL NAME OR LOCATION				MILL NO.		DISPOSITION				SUB-DISP		SOURCE (Non Disp)		
Tree Length Logging				Anywhere				M004891		CTPF010091								
LOAD NO.	DATE WEIGHED			POP		TOP	NET WEIGHT (KG)				TMS NUMBER		PRIMARY CODES		BLOCK	TREES	MILL CODE	PAGE
96	Year	M	D	3	0	5	14					SP GR 01					1	

LOG NO.	GROSS							DEDUCTIONS					LOG NO.	GROSS							DEDUCTIONS								
	SP	CD	PR	BUTT	TOP	LGTH	VOL	T	M	C1	C2	C3		VOL	F	SP	CD	PR	BUTT	TOP	LGTH	VOL	T	M	C1	C2	C3	VOL	F
1	SP	GR	01	24	20	4.8	109								1	SP	GR	01	32	24	4.8	193							
							75																						
2				20	18	4.8	61											24	20	3.0	47								
							61																						
3				18	14	4.8	37											20	20	3.0	47								
							418			3	2	4						20	16	3.6	36								
4																													
5																		16	14	3.6	28								
6	SP	GR	01	28	24	4.8	148	1	6	10	12	48	46								608								
							109																						
7				24	20	4.8	75	1	6	10	10	48	19																
							75																						
8				20	16	4.8	48											36	24	4.8	244								
							24														109								
9				16	14	2.4	18											24	22	4.8	91								
							606			5	4	2	66								91								
0																		22	18	4.8	61								
1																		18	14	4.8	37				9	7	8		
2	SP	GR	01	32	26	4.8	193														803								
							127																						
3				26	24	4.8	109																						
							109																						
4				24	20	4.8	75											36	26	4.8	244								
							47														127								
5				20	16	3.0	30											26	24	3.6	81								
							24														81								
6				16	14	2.4	18											24	22	3.6	68								
							659														68								
7																		22	18	3.6	46								
																					38								
8																		18	14	3.0	23								
9																													
0																													
LOG GROUP 1	SPGR01			1883		SUMMARIZE				65		LOG GROUP 1	SPGR01			2283		F - Incomplete tree or log flag											
LOG GROUP 2						TOTALS ON						LOG GROUP 2																	
LOG GROUP 3						REVERSE						LOG GROUP 3																	
LOG GROUP 4						SIDE OF						LOG GROUP 4																	
LOG GROUP 5						LAST PAGE						LOG GROUP 5																	
LOG GROUP 6												LOG GROUP 6																	
TOTAL												TOTAL						M - Deduction Method											

SPECIES CODES		
Aspen	A	Other Deciduous
Aspen/Balsam Poplar	AB	Pine
Birch	B	Balsam Poplar
Douglas Fir	DF	Limber Pine
Balsam Fir	F	Whitebark Pine
Alpine Fir	FA	Spruce
Incidental Conifer	IC	Black Spruce
Incidental Deciduous	ID	Engelmann Spruce
Incidental Fir	IF	White Spruce
Larch	LT	Spruce and Pine
Other Coniferous	OC	

CONDITION CODES	
Blowdown	BD
Beetle killed	BK
Dead	D
Endangered	EN
Fire killed	FK
Green	GR
Insect Damaged	ID
Interior Rot	IR
Industrial Salvage	IS
Other Damaged	OD
Timber Damage	TD

PRODUCT CODES	
Sawlog, Conif. Pulp	01
Deciduous pulp	02
Small Stem Conifer	06
Veneer	14
Oriented Strandboard	18
Laminated Veneer Lbr.	19
Fuelwood	20
Undersize	99

DEFECT TYPES		
Heart Rot	1	Crook or Sweep
Butt Rot	2	Shake or Crack
Sap Rot	3	Crotch or Fork
Cat Face	4	

DEDUCTION METHODS			
Reduce diameter	1	Reduce length	2
Percent	3	Fraction	4
Blocking Out	5	Interior Cylinder	6
Cube Deduction	7	End Rot Options	8

Figure 10.2 – 1st Log Scale Tally Sheet for Tree Length Volumes

10.1.6 Percent Cull Calculation

When gathering data for the tree volume tables, make the best estimate for defects on each log as it is measured. A percentage deduction for defects may be made using the volume table data.

To arrive at the percent deduction, multiply the total deductions by 100 and divide by the gross scale to get the percent of defect.

10.1.7 Tree Length Volumes

Form TM 256 “Tree length Scale Sheet” or a comparable document/spreadsheet is used to compile either the total volume or a sample volume. The load identifier information is completed similar to the TM32S “Log Scale Tally Sheet.”

Figure 10.4 represents one sample block and Figure 10.5 a second sample block where not all stems are measured but rather sampling occurs. This is indicated by the “By Pieces” box checked under the Prorating Method. The “TM257” Tree Length Scale Summary Sheet” is completed.

Butt diameters have been dot tallied and the number of pieces has been tabulated for each diameter class. The volume per piece is added for each diameter class and the total gross volume for butt diameter is determined by multiplying the number of pieces by the volume per piece. The total volume for the sample is then the sum of volumes for each butt diameter.

The information for each TM256 sample is transferred to the TM257 "Tree Length Scale Summary Sheet". In the example there were two samples, which measured 25 butt diameters in total and for a volume of 26.034 cubic metres. The total tree length count was 103 therefore the volume estimate for all trees would be $103/25 \times 26.034 = 107$ cubic metres.

LESSEE, LICENSEE OR PERMITTEE		MILL	DISPOSITION	MILL NO.	YEAR/MONTH
TREE LENGTH LOGGING		ANYWHERE	CTP/CTL F MU NO.	M1010418.9.1	201010.6
TOTAL PIECE COMPILATION	LOAD OR PILE NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	SAMPLE PIECES	NET SAMPLE VOLUME (Designate Species, Condition, Product)	
	196	1	12	SP16201	
	196	2	13	11.225	14.796
PILE 196 - 103 TREES					
	103				
LINE NO.	1. This Months Totals	103	25	26.021	
	2. Last Mths Accumulated Totals (from last mths Line No. 3)	-	-	-	
	3. This Mths Accumulated Totals (Line No. 1 + Line No. 2)	103	25	26.021	
	4. Multiplier (A + B) (Take to 3 Decimals)	4.120			
	5. Total Converted Volume (Line No. 4 x C; x D; x E)			107.2	
	6. Last Months Converted Volume (From Line No. 5 Of Last Month)			-	
	7. This Months Volume (Line No. 5 Minus Line No. 6)			107.2	

Figure 10.6 - Tree Length Tally Summary (Sample Blocks 1 and 2)

10.2 Stacked Wood Scaling

Stacked wood scaling is perhaps the quickest means of obtaining a volume estimate but by the same token it is often the least accurate. This method of scale is not acceptable for scaling sample scale loads associated with mass scaling. The procedures in this section may be used when the timber is cut into bolts of the same length (up to 2.6 m) and stacked. Estimating volumes of firewood is the most common application of this scale method.

10.2.1 Unit of Measure

A stacked cubic metre (symbol: m³ [stacked]) is defined as the total amount of wood, bark and airspace contained in a stack of roundwood that has external dimensions equal to 1 m³. Unless otherwise stated, a stacked cubic metre implies rough wood or wood that still has the bark on it.

The relationship between a cubic metre and a stacked cubic metre is as follows:

Coniferous:

$$1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (roundwood)} = 1.506 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (stacked)}$$

$$1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (stacked)} = 0.664 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (roundwood)}$$

Deciduous:

$$1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (roundwood)} = 1.795 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (stacked)}$$

$$1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (stacked)} = 0.557 \text{ m}^3 \text{ (roundwood)}$$

Note: These relationships are averages. The solid wood content of stacked wood is influenced by many factors. These factors include species, length and diameter of bolts, method of piling, number of knots, and whether the wood is peeled or rough. Measurement of the dimensions of a stack result in a m³ (stacked) volume however as Crown charges are based on the solid or roundwood m³ volume then a conversion factor is applied.

10.2.2 Piling

The scaler or check scaler may refuse to scale wood that is poorly piled. The wood must then be re-piled for scaling within the period specified by the scaler or the check scaler. The scaler will not make any reductions of the apparent volume for faulty piling. A cleared lane at least 1 m wide must be left between piles so the pile can be scaled on either side. The bottom of each pile must be as level and horizontal as possible.

10.2.3 Measurements and Volume Calculations

Information for the pile or load should be recorded on a tally sheet or spreadsheet similar to that shown in figure 10.7. The form to use will change depending on the species and width of the stack. This is determined by the volume per piece formula which is:
basal area (diameter of defect) x width of stack x conversion factor (for species group) for 1 m³ roundwood to m³ (stacked). In addition, the value for converting Net m³ (stacked) to m³ roundwood for the final volume shall be 0.557 for deciduous and 0.664 for coniferous.

To determine the number of stacked cubic metres in a pile, the height and length are multiplied together to give the area of the face of the pile. The width of the pile (i.e., the length of the bolts) is multiplied by the face area of the pile to calculate the stacked cubic metres in the pile.

Length and height measurements may be obtained from one or both sides of the stack. If measurements are taken on one side of the stack, defects are taken on the same side, and it is assumed they extend through the full width of the stack. If measurements are taken on both sides of the stack, defects are assumed to extend half way through the width of the stack.

$$\text{Volume in m}^3 \text{ (stacked)} = (H \times L) \times W$$

Where H = height of pile in metres to the nearest 0.02 m

L = length of pile in metres to the nearest 0.02 m

W = width of pile (or length of bolts) in metres to the nearest 0.2 m.

The following figure is an example of a stacked wood tally sheet:

10.2.3.1 Stack Length

The length of a pile is measured to the nearest 0.02 m using a tape. One measurement is necessary.

When a stack of roundwood drops off in height at one or both ends to form a slope, measure the length where half the height of the stack intercepts the line of the slope (figure 11.5).

On hillsides or slopes, the length of a stack is measured parallel to the slope of the stack.

When exceedingly long stacks of roundwood are encountered, they are recorded as separate sections not exceeding 25 m in length. Each section is measured, recorded and marked as a separate stack.

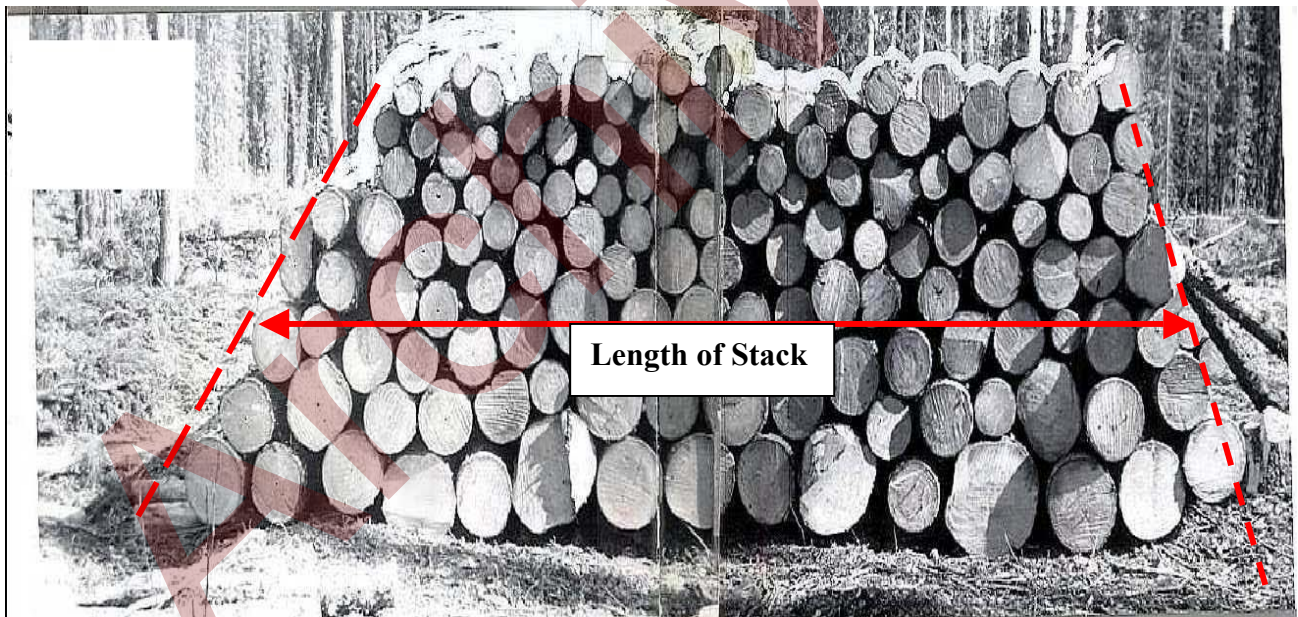


Figure 10.8 - Length of stack

10.2.3.2 Stack Height

The height of a pile is measured to the nearest 0.02 m.

Take the height measurements of the stacks at equal intervals of 1 m along the pile, starting at the midpoint of the first interval (Figure 11.5). Note: The first interval starts at the point to which the length was measured. The height of the pile is the average of the heights that were measured at established intervals and rounded to a 0.02-m class. The exact heights are recorded as measured then the average is computed to the nearest 0.02 in box B.

If the pile is irregular, more heights should be recorded at closer intervals.

On hillsides or slopes, heights are measured at right angles to the length measurements of the stack.

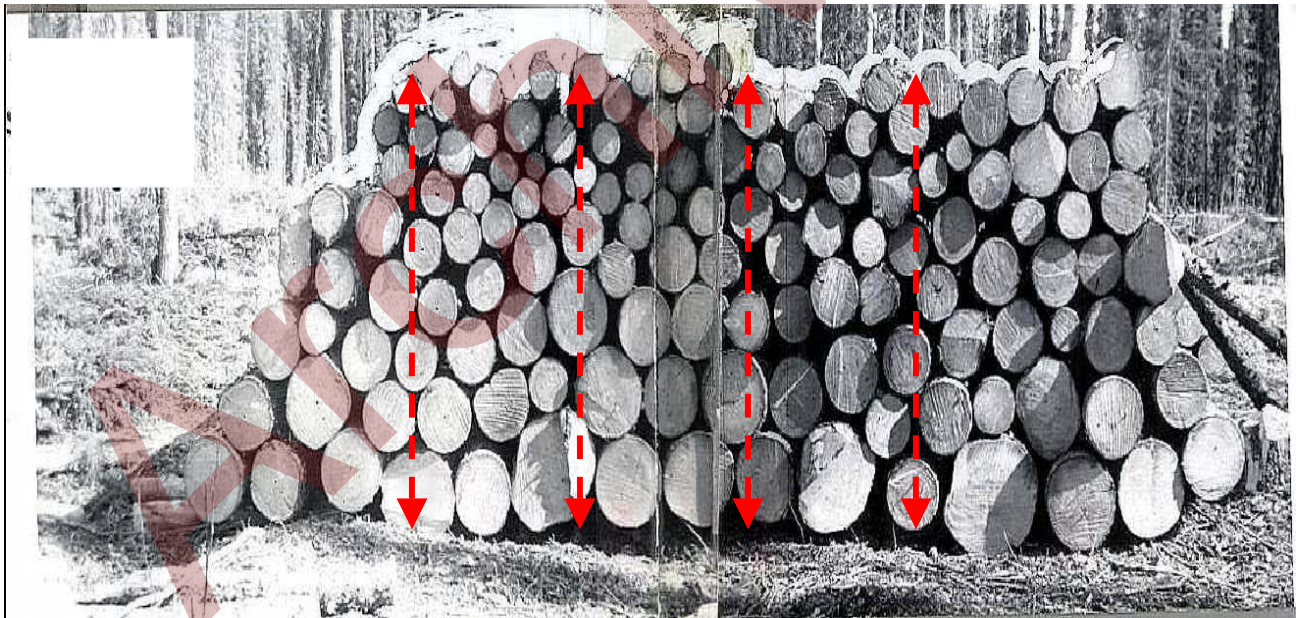


Figure 10.9 - Stack Height

10.2.3.3 Stack Width

The width of the stack is the length measured for the bolts piled in the stack. The exact measurements are recorded as measured and then the average computed to the nearest 0.2 in box C. Note: It is this value that is used on the tally sheet.

Each pile of roundwood contains only bolts of the same length. Measure a sufficient number of bolts to ensure they are within the same length class. Note: Do not allow for trim when measuring stacked wood.

10.2.3.4 Deductions

Deductions are allowed for soft rots, missing wood or voids. Voids are unnecessary airspace in a stack of roundwood. The void must be large enough to accommodate the average-sized bolt in the stack.

Measure for defects and voids on the same side that was measured for height and width.

Measure the void to estimate the diameter of bolt that could fit into the space. Make a deduction equivalent to the volume for that diameter of bolt.

If the basal area of the defect is greater than 50% of the basal area of the bolt, deduct the entire bolt. If it is less than 50%, make no deduction.

The total number of defects and voids for each diameter class is then multiplied by the vol/pc to determine the defect volume for each diameter. The total defect volume is then calculated. This value is then rounded to two decimals and transferred to Deduction Line D (under the gross m³ (stacked) entry).

10.2.3.5 Compilation

The gross m³ (stacked) is compiled by multiplying boxes A x B x C. The net m³ (stacked) is the gross volume reduced by the total defect volume. The net m³ (stacked) is converted to solid volume by multiplying by using the appropriate conversion factor for m³ (stacked) to m³ roundwood.

LESSEE, LICENCEE OR PERMITEE STACKED WOOD SCALING					SOURCE CTLK010009				
SPECIES A	COND. GR	PROD. 02	LOAD No. 104	FORM TM 9 A134068	DATE 91/08/10				
MEASUREMENTS					DEDUCTIONS (m ³ stacked) 2.6 m Lgth				
LENGTHS	HEIGHT	WIDTHS			DIA	VOL/PC	DEFECTS	VOIDS	VOLUME
6.44	1.36	2.52							
	1.38	2.53			8	0.023			
	1.34	2.54			10	0.037			
	1.38	2.53			12	0.053			
					14	0.072			
					16	0.094			
					18	0.119			
					20	0.147	2	1	0.441
					22	0.177			
A	B	C			24	0.211	1		0.211
Total Length	Ave. Height	Ave. Class			26	0.248			
6.44	1.36	2.6			28	0.287			
m ³ (stacked) AxBxC (2 decimals)	22.77				30	0.330			
Deduction Line D	0.65				32	0.375			
					34	0.424			
					36	0.475			
					38	0.529			
					40	0.586			
Net m ³ (stacked)	22.12				Total (D)				
					Deductions				
m ³ (roundwood) Line E x 0.557 2 decimals	12.32				3 1 0.652				
					Vol/PC = Basal Area x 2.6 x 1.795				

Figure 10.10 – Sample of Stacked Wood Tally Compilation