

AN OPTION FOR LOG SCALING A COMBO SYSTEM

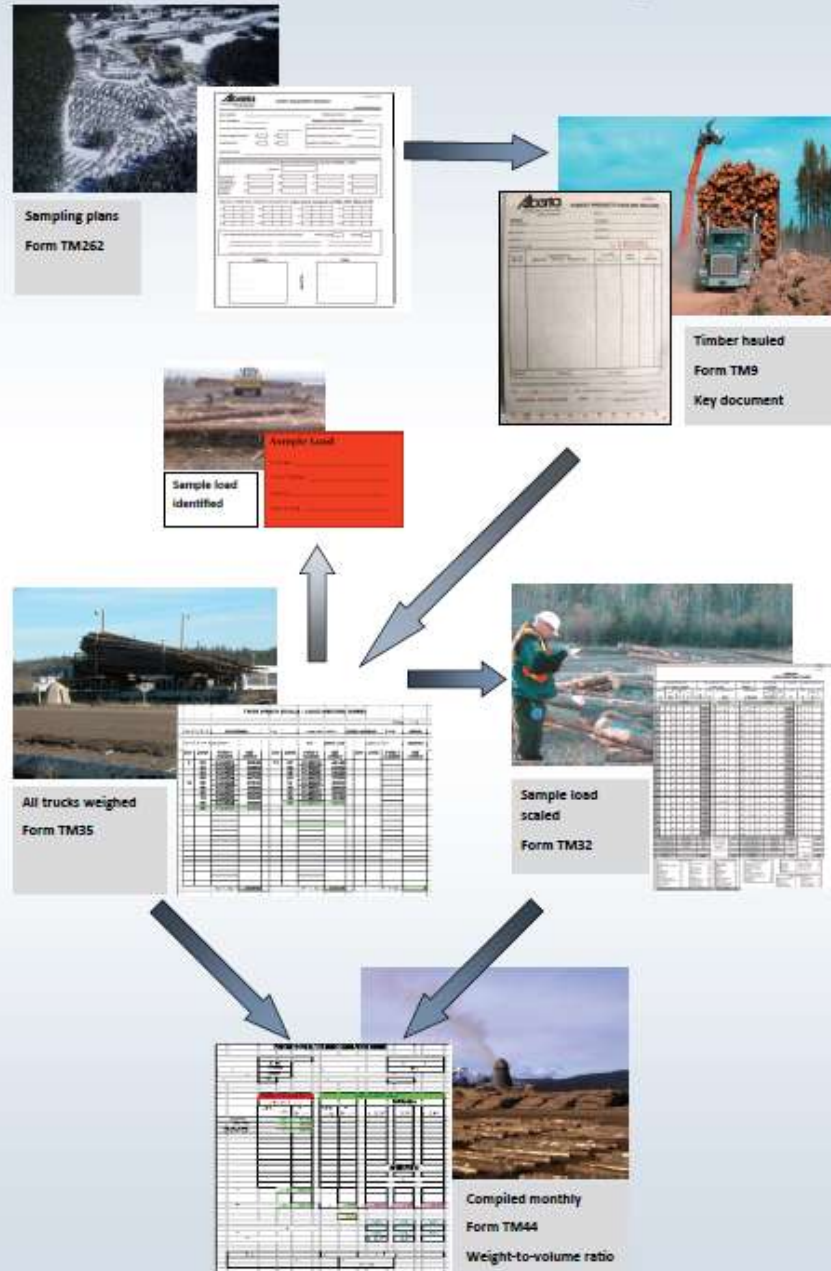
Max Matthews

Glenn Dobransky



Overview of Alberta Program

Mass Scaling Forms



What is A Combo System

- Simply stated – a combination of sawmill technology and stick scaling.



Problems With Stick Scaling

Ergonomics



Accuracy of
Measurements



Scale Yard Problems

- Cost
- Maintenance



Adapting to a changing scaling environment in Alberta

Scaling in Alberta can have it's challenges, some conditions are conducive to scaling such as these:

others are not as favorable.

Some yards require little maintenance or have enough room to spread loads and scale without obstruction

Currently there are 240 permitted scalers in the province of Alberta. Roughly 35% are government employees the rest are not.

Scaler shortage is not an issue affecting changes in scaling. Competing with oil and gas may be a factor affecting attracting scalers to the job.



Issues faced currently with the majority of stick scaling in Alberta is the time of year in which it occurs.



-26C in the sun
on this day....

Winter can get a bit nippy.



-21C on this day, average winter conditions for scaling to be conducted.

Not all scaling occurs in winter months...



Wood kept in storage yards will be scaled in warmer conditions, however, the longer wood sits in storage yards the drier it becomes and more sun checking and degradation occurs on the wood.



Yard space can be an issue for decking and spreading sample loads. Leaving them on the ground with little to no space between them.



Max,
(back in
the day,
still has
spurs on).



Tree length with brow logs

Ideally this is what we'd like to see for scaling.

An alternative solution to an unfavorable scaling environment may be to have:

- an enclosed environment
- Logs elevated for ease of measuring and assessing defect
- logs fed by conveyor and stopped for measurements

The Scaler Station:

Logs arrive at the mill and are sorted, by size or can be by sample load. Then moved up on conveyors..



Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources



- From our perspective, changes will occur and if we can streamline process and retain the same result then moving forward with advancements in technology is a necessity.
- Questions that have arisen for these changes are:
 - If using the scanner/scaling station how will government check scales be conducted? Do we change our sampling and check scaling processes? Likely.
 - How do we ensure mills that will not employ this technology are not at a disadvantage, that equitable processes are maintained depending on size of mill?
 - Will there be an advantage to employing this method over conventional stick scaling?
 - At what point is it cost effective?
 - Legislation, directives and manuals will have to change and or be written.
 - Ultimately what is decided upon for a scanner/scaling station must be fair and equitable to all scaling programs in the province.