



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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EMS TRANSMISSION 04/24/2007

Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2007-052

Expires: 9/30/2008

To: All District Managers

From: State Director, Oregon/Washington

Subject: Establishment of Log Scaler Qualifications for both Scribner and Cubic Log Scaling

Program Area: Timber Management; Log Scaling

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) establishes four log scaler levels of competency and criteria for certification attainment and maintenance. This IM also establishes the requirement for all westside districts to have a certified Check Scaler on board and presents considerations for determining if a district may need more than one certified Check Scaler.

Policy/Action: This IM replaces IM No. OR-2003-081 (expired). The criteria in Attachment 1 ("Log Scaling Certification Requirements and Procedures") must be met for certification of log scalers at one of the four Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) log scaler competency levels. These requirements exceed those utilized to certify the existing Check Scalers (see expired IM No. OR-2003-081). To maintain their certification, currently certified Check Scalers must successfully pass the two certification maintenance checks scales specified in Item 2.d. of Attachment 1 within six months of the issuance of this IM.

The scheduling of log lays and production check scales are dependent on cooperating mills willing to provide the time, logs, and space necessary to meet our training objectives. Locations and scheduling may vary from year to year throughout OR/WA. Employees expected to attain certain levels of scaling certification shall be provided the necessary time and district travel funds to achieve and maintain the necessary certification levels.

Upon a candidate scaler's successful completion of the certification requirements, the District Cruiser/Appraiser (or State Cruiser/Appraiser) and State Master Scaler will forward a written recommendation (within two weeks) to the State Office Division of Resource Planning, Use and Protection for the issuance of a Certificate of Competency to be signed by the Deputy State Director. These recommendations shall use the format in Attachment 2.

The duties of each certification level of scaler can only be performed by a scaler with the necessary certification, appropriately maintained. Failure to pass the annual specified certification suspends the certification. Said failure is a performance issue to be addressed by the supervisor in consultation with the State Master Scaler.

In each westside district, a sufficient number of Woods Scalers and/or Check Scalers must be certified as Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) to properly administer the falling and scaling services contracts. Additionally, as it relates to timber sale contract administration, any persons serving as Authorized Officers with authority over administrative or scale sale measurement shall be so designated in the "second letter" approving execution of the contract.

The eastside districts (excluding the Klamath Falls Field Office) will not generally have the capability to maintain check scalers and will depend on the westside districts for assistance. The Eastside districts will cover the labor and travel cost for any needed scaling assistance.

Timeframe: This policy goes into effect upon issuance.

Background: Accurate log scaling is an essential component of accurate timber volume measurement of lump sum and scale timber sales in fulfillment of the OR/WA timber sale volume performance measures. Training, qualification, certification, and quality control are necessary to ensure accurate scaling.

Woods Scalers need to be certified in Eastside Scribner to ensure the accurate volume estimation of standing trees and fallen sample trees. Certain Woods Scalers may also be certified in Westside Scribner due to appraisal of BLM timber sales being based on long log values, and for skills continuity and career opportunity reasons. The westside industry measurement standard is Westside Scribner. Additionally, trespass data and lands actions may utilize westside scale data. Cubic certification will support sales (such as biomass, which is usually sold on weight) that involve sawlogs that do not meet the minimum merchantable size. Cubic is the best and most accurate measurement rule for these small logs.

While not required, certification can be achieved in Westside Scribner and/or Cubic scaling at the Check Scaler level. The decision to pursue this certification is dependent on the needs of the district; however, it is not anticipated that any scale sales based on Westside Scribner or Cubic will be sold. However, certification in both Cubic and Westside Scribner at the Check Scaler level is necessary for Check Scaler certification of Woods Scalers and may be desirable for career enhancement reasons.

Although only one Check Scaler is required in each westside district, a district may determine that it needs more certified Check Scalers. Factors to consider in making this determination may be: (1) the demographics of the workforce (i.e., impending retirements) dictating two Check Scalers to ensure skills continuity; (2) the need for backup; (3) overall quantity of scale sale volume a district may offer; and (4) the number of mills in a district area that receive BLM logs. Overall program efficiency may be enhanced by certification of the district Cruiser/Appraiser as a Check Scaler; however, this is not required. In addition, scaling costs can be kept lower, and BLM scaler credibility maintained, by having, in most cases, the local The BLM Check Scaler scaling all logs coming into mills in the home district area, including those from sales in other districts.

Master Scalers must be certified in all three log rules in order to perform all possible check scales of Woods Scalers and Check Scalers. A Woods Scaler or Check Scaler aspiring to eventual certification as a Master Scaler may benefit from certification in Westside Scribner and Cubic.

This IM also emphasizes the importance of the geographical and tree species breadth of scaling knowledge and experience for Check and Master Scalers. This emphasis promotes overall scaling efficiency, by assuming our limited pool of scalers have the ability to scale logs on another district or logs coming into a local mill from another district's sale. This flexibility is necessary because there can be significant differences in both the form and degree of defect from one district to the next, or between the Oregon Coast Range and the Cascades, and the eastside, within species.

Management of the district and Westside Check Scaler staffing levels is important to ensure accomplishment of ongoing scale sales and stewardship contracts, and quality control. Skills maintenance is important and depends on sufficient ongoing log scaling.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: This IM amends Chapter IV, appendix 1 of J-5310-1 - Timber Cruiser Handbook. These new scaler competency levels and qualifications will be added to the Handbook as part of the update process.

Coordination: The policy was developed collaboratively with the State Cruiser/Appraiser, State Scaler, Westside District Cruiser/Appraisers, and Westside Forestry Leads.

Contact: Questions regarding technical aspects of this policy should be directed to Frank Cooper (State Scaler) at 541-683-6668 or Ken Roan (State Cruiser/Appraiser) at 541-464-3395. Questions regarding policy implications should be directed to Lyndon Werner, Forester at 503-808-6071.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Instruction Memorandum and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
James G. Kenna
Associate State Director

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Records Section

2 Attachment(s)

- 1 - [OR/WA Log Scaling Certification Requirements and Procedures](#) (5pp)
- 2 - [Scaling Competency Certification Recommendation Format](#) (1p)

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