

GUIDELINES ON SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR CERTIFIED TIMBER CRUISERS

This draft Guideline is being circulated to all Certified Timber Cruisers, ABCFP, MoF, MWLAP and other stakeholders for comment by March 15, 2004. It is anticipated that the Timber Cruising Certification Board will issue a revised draft by April 2004.

Prepared by the...



TIMBER CRUISING
CERTIFICATION BOARD

TCCB is a Technical Certification Board of...

Applied Science
Technologists & Technicians
of British Columbia



February 2004
Draft



PREAMBLE...

In spring 2001, the provincial government introduced a results-based approach to the regulation of forest practices in British Columbia. It also concluded that increased reliance on the judgment and accountability of natural resource professionals ('professional reliance') was necessary to the success of this new approach. To ensure the success of professional reliance, the province further decided to proceed with a substantial strengthening of the legislative regime under which the natural resource professions operate. Amendments to the Foresters Act ('the Act'), a key element of the provincial strategy, provided for inclusion of the Registered Forest Technologist as well as enabling 'voluntary certification schemes for technical occupations in fields relating to the practice of professional forestry' within a re-named Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP). It is through this latter provision that Timber Cruisers are to be regulated.

The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) and ABC FP, during their discussions leading up to the changes to the Act, also considered the inclusion of fields such as Timber Cruising as well as other areas of Forest Measurement. Both associations agreed the best 'home' for these practitioners was under the revised Foresters Act. While the approach was endorsed in principle leading up to, and immediately following passage of the Act, it was agreed that details as to how the ABC FP would integrate timber cruisers would be addressed.

In the fall of 2003 the Timber Cruising Certification Board of ASTTBC formally requested the ABC FP Council to consider assuming responsibility for the certification and registration of timber cruisers. ABC FP Council subsequently approved, in principle, accepting a role in the certification of timber cruisers and agreed to establish a special task force to look at all possible voluntary certification programs, with timber cruising as the priority area.

With respect to the rights of Certified Timber Cruisers, to independently practice aspects of professional forestry, the new bylaws rely on ABC FP Council's clarification of these rights. This Practice Guideline was approved in principle by the Timber Cruising Certification Board in March, 2004 and will be forwarded to the ASTTBC Practice Review Board for their approval and to ABC FP for consideration when they assume responsibility for this certification program.

It is important to note that this Guideline is intended to be a 'living document' that will change over time as Council, in consultation with timber cruisers and others, gain a better understanding of the role of ATCs and as the relationship between forest practitioners and timber cruisers evolves.



INTRODUCTION...

Registered Professional Foresters, Registered Forest Technologists and Certified Timber Cruisers are all integral components of the forestry team. Over the years, they have generally cooperated well in providing sound forest measurement practices for British Columbia. Recent changes, including the implementation of the results-based Forest and Range Practices Act with its considerable emphasis on professional reliance, makes it an opportune time for Registered Professional Foresters, Registered Forest Technologists and Certified Timber Cruisers and other technical disciplines / occupations related to professional forestry to combine under a single act and into a single association. Accordingly, in 2003, the Foresters Act was modified to achieve that purpose, among many others.

Section 11(1)(m) of the Act allows the ABCFP Council to pass resolutions including for "*the creation of voluntary certification schemes for technical occupations related to the practice of professional forestry*". ABCFP Council has been asked to establish a program for the certification and registration of Timber Cruisers and to adopt this Guideline to govern the practice of Certified Timber Cruisers granted registration as an Accredited Timber Cruiser (ATC) or Accredited Timber Evaluator (ATE). Other technical disciplines will be addressed in the near future.

The ATE is an Accredited Timber Evaluator, a senior or supervisory role, who is responsible for organizing, training, quality assurance and reporting of results.

The ATC is an Accredited Timber Cruiser, with a minimum of two years field experience and competencies, who is responsible for recording, supervising and instructing subordinates, with a minimum of supervision.

In all cases, like RPF's and RFT's, Certified Timber Cruiser's will only carry out work for which they are qualified based on their education, training, experience and proven competency and are expected to comply with the Foresters Act and the bylaws of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP). The actual practice rights of individual ATCs are further constrained by the stipulation in the Code of Ethics (Bylaw 11) that members may only practice in areas in which they are competent.

These guidelines are intended to reflect the successful working relationship that currently exists between Registered Professional Foresters, Registered Forest Technologists and Certified Timber Cruisers.



The Role of an Accredited Timber Cruiser

Accredited Timber Cruisers (ATCs) typically work within a forestry team that includes RPFs, RFTs, measurement professionals and administrative staff. In addition to certain education related distinctions between RPFs, RFTs and ATCs, the role of ATCs also varies depending upon the size, complexity of the project, as well as the experience, competency and proven expertise of the ATC.

ATC functions and accountabilities within the sphere of forest measurements practice tend to be more narrowly defined (cruising) and focused than those of RPFs or RFTs. There is an emphasis on shorter time frames, practical skills, and operating within established technical parameters and protocols. Recognition of the consequence of actions and decisions and their impact helps define the limits to scope of practice for the ATC. For example, designing or collecting many types of cruise related measurement data and attesting to its completeness, accuracy and appropriateness would be considered within the purview of an ATC.

'**Signing off**' is a means of formally accepting responsibility for works completed within one's scope of practice and expertise. Accordingly, ATCs are expected to 'sign off' appropriate work products. On occasion, regulatory requirements beyond those found in the Foresters Act may dictate that an RPF or RFT take responsibility for and 'sign off' certain plans. An ATC may, however, have authority to do the work, recommend the 'sign off' and accept responsibility for that recommendation.

Areas of Practice of an Accredited Timber Cruiser

Purpose and Limitations...

The following practice area descriptions and examples are not intended to be a comprehensive listing nor a complete definition of the scope of practice for ATC's. Rather, they are meant to provide a generally accepted understanding of existing roles and responsibilities that may be used as guides in other areas of forest measurements practice.

These guidelines are intended for the typical ATC and may not adequately reflect the present professional working relationships that exist between RPFs, RFTs, ATEs and ATCs.

The activities and examples discussed below are based on the premise that ATC's will only practice within their individual levels of competency. It is therefore assumed, that ATC's have gained the specific competencies necessary for the activities in question.

Forest Measurements...

Technical aspects of the areas of practice include:

- Forest measurements - timber cruising
- Forest resource surveys and inventories
- Photogrammetric interpretation and mapping

The aspects of forest measurements practices that may be conducted by an ATC include:

- Preparing cruise surveys and sample designs. Implementing and performing data collection, for timber cruises, as well as mapping and assisting in producing reports
- Preparing and implementing operational reconnaissance and forest timber inventory data collection
- Collecting, and preparing appraisal, and or timber evaluation data
- Interpreting forest features and attributes from air photos
- Verifying these interpreted forest features through 'on site' procedures
- Preparing operational maps and assisting with associated reports

While these examples apply mainly to timber cruising and inventory, the general principles would apply to all technicians responsible for forest measurements.

Example 1...

A logging plan map is received. The ATC may ensure that all necessary data and information is provided and develop a cruise plan to a specified standard. The ATC will collect the data and may produce final maps and strata. The ATC may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard.

The resultant product of the professional services provided by the RPF, RFT, ATE and ATC can be used by their client for further planning, analysis, forecasting or modelling.

Example 2...

Inventory objectives are set. The forestry team develops a sampling plan. The plan may be submitted by an RPF. An ATC, with appropriate certification or experience, may follow photo interpretation procedures and/or classification systems to develop the initial estimation of the polygon attributes. An ATC, as noted above, will carry out field activities and may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard.

The resultant product of the professional services provided by the RPF, RFT, ATE and ATC can be used by their client for further planning, analysis, forecasting or modelling.

Example 3...

Natural events, such as insect, fire or wind occur. The forestry team develops a sampling and data collection plan. The plan may be submitted by an RPF. An ATC will carry out the field surveys to the required standards, and may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard.

The resultant product of the professional services provided by the RPF, RFT, ATE and ATC can be used by their client for further planning, analysis, forecasting or modelling.

The Role of an Accredited Timber Evaluator

Accredited Timber Evaluators (ATEs) typically work within a forestry team that includes RPFs, RFTs, ATCs and administrative staff. In addition to certain education related distinctions between RPFs, RFTs, and ATEs, the role of ATEs recognizes the additional experience, knowledge and competency that a supervisory position requires.

ATE functions and accountabilities within the sphere of forest measurements practice tend to be more narrowly defined and focused than those of RPFs or RFTs. There is an emphasis on shorter time frames, practical skills, and operating within established technical parameters and protocols. Recognition of the consequence of actions and decisions and their impact helps define the limits to scope of practice for the ATE. For example, designing, supervising and quality assurance of cruise related measurement data and attesting to its completeness, accuracy and appropriateness would be considered within the purview of an ATE.

'**Signing off**' is a means of formally accepting responsibility for works completed within one's scope of practice and expertise. Accordingly, ATEs are expected to 'sign off' appropriate work products. On occasion, regulatory requirements beyond those found in the Foresters Act may dictate that an RPF or RFT take responsibility for and 'sign off' certain plans. An ATE may, however, have authority to do the work, recommend the sign off and accept responsibility for that recommendation.

Areas of Practice of an Accredited Timber Evaluator

Purpose and Limitations...

The following practice area descriptions and examples are not intended to be a comprehensive listing nor a complete definition of the scope of practice for ATE's. Rather, they are meant to provide a generally accepted understanding of existing roles and responsibilities that may be used as guides in other areas of forest measurements practice.

These guidelines are intended for the typical ATE and may not adequately reflect the present professional working relationships that exist between RPFs, RFTs, ATEs and ATCs .

The activities and examples discussed below are based on the premise that ATEs will only practice within their individual levels of competency. It is therefore assumed, that ATCs have gained the specific competencies necessary for the activities in question.

Forest Measurements...

Technical aspects of the areas of practice include:

- Forest measurements, from timber cruising to standing timber evaluation
- Forest resource surveys and inventories
- Training, supervision and quality assurance for field measurements
- Timber valuation
- Photogrammetric interpretation and mapping

The aspects of forest measurements practices that may be conducted by an ATE include:

- Preparing cruise surveys and sample designs. Implementing, training, performing data collection, quality control and assurance for timber cruises, as well as mapping, compiling and producing reports
- Preparing, training, implementing and supervising operational reconnaissance and forest timber inventory data collection, as well as the quality control and assurance
- Collecting, preparing and summarizing appraisal, and or timber evaluation data
- Interpreting forest features and attributes from air photos
- Verifying these interpreted forest features through 'on site' procedures
- Preparing operational maps and associated reports

While these examples apply mainly to timber cruising and inventory, the general principles would apply to all technicians responsible for forest measurements.

Example 1...

A logging plan map is received. The ATE may ensure that all necessary data and information is provided to develop a cruise plan to a specified standard. The ATE will collect, train, or supervise the collection and quality control of the data. The ATE may produce final maps and strata. The ATE may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard. The ATE may provide land/timber valuations.

The resultant product of the professional services provided by the ATC, ATE, RFT and RPF can be used by their client for further planning, analysis, forecasting or modelling.

Example 2...

Inventory objectives are set. The forestry team develops a sampling plan. The plan may be submitted by an RPF. An ATE, with appropriate certification or experience, may follow photo interpretation procedures and/or classification systems to develop the initial estimation of the polygon attributes. An ATE, as noted above, will carry out, supervise and provide quality assurance for the field activities. The ATE may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard.

The resultant product of the professional services provided by the RPF, RFT, ATE and ATC can be used by their client for further planning, analysis, forecasting or modelling.

Example 3...

Natural events, such as insect, fire or wind occur. The forestry team develops a sampling and data collection plan. The plan may be submitted by an RPF. An ATE will carry out, train, supervise and provide quality assurance for the field surveys to the required standards. The ATE may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard.

The resultant product of the professional services provided by the RPF, RFT, ATE and ATC can be used by their client for further planning, analysis, forecasting or modelling.

Please send your comments to techninfo@asttbc.org or FAX to (604) 585-2790.

DRAFT



Our Mission...

The Practice of Timber Cruising is to provide the best estimate of volume, quality, species, composition and value of the timber resource.

For information, contact...



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CERTIFICATION BOARD**

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