

Select, mark and assess volume of standing trees

Overview

This standard is about the selection, marking and assessment of the volume of standing trees in preparation for harvesting. You must demonstrate selection, the marking of sample plots and marking trees ready for extraction.

The marking of trees can be to indicate removal, selection, or those that are to remain in the longer term. Selection and marking of trees must include taking into consideration extraction routes.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
3. identify the area of standing trees to be assessed and marked
4. complete pre-tariff procedure to establish appropriate sampling scheme and if thinning the required intensity
5. select, mark, measure and assess the volume of standing trees in line with the given specification and appropriate tariff
6. complete the appropriate tariffing field checks to ensure the elimination of errors
7. check the thinning intensity using sample plots
8. maintain records of standing trees, as required
9. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the significance of the following when assessing the volume of standing trees: thinning intensity, thinning yield, sample plot, rack spacing, rack width, product, brash mat, wind hazard classification and working methods, silvicultural systems, species of tree and extraction method
5. the tariff procedure
6. how to measure thinning yield, thinning intensity and basal area
7. when it is appropriate to fell a volume of sample trees
8. the criteria for deciding between selective and systematic methods of selection
9. the significance of thinning types on selection and marking, covering low, intermediate, crown and line
10. the appropriate use of marking tools and equipment when selecting and marking trees
11. how to use full and abbreviated tariffing systems
12. how to identify the species of standing trees
13. the implications of terrain, season, weather and species
14. product specifications, including quality, minimum and maximum lengths and minimum and maximum diameters
15. the available products and markets
16. the appropriate records to be kept and their significance
17. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Glossary

Basal area of an individual tree is the cross-sectional area of the tree at its breast height point

Product specifications e.g. fencing posts, telegraph poles

Tariff procedure includes the three basic steps in estimating the volume of a stand of trees

Tariffs are a series of pre-constructed “local” volume tables

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