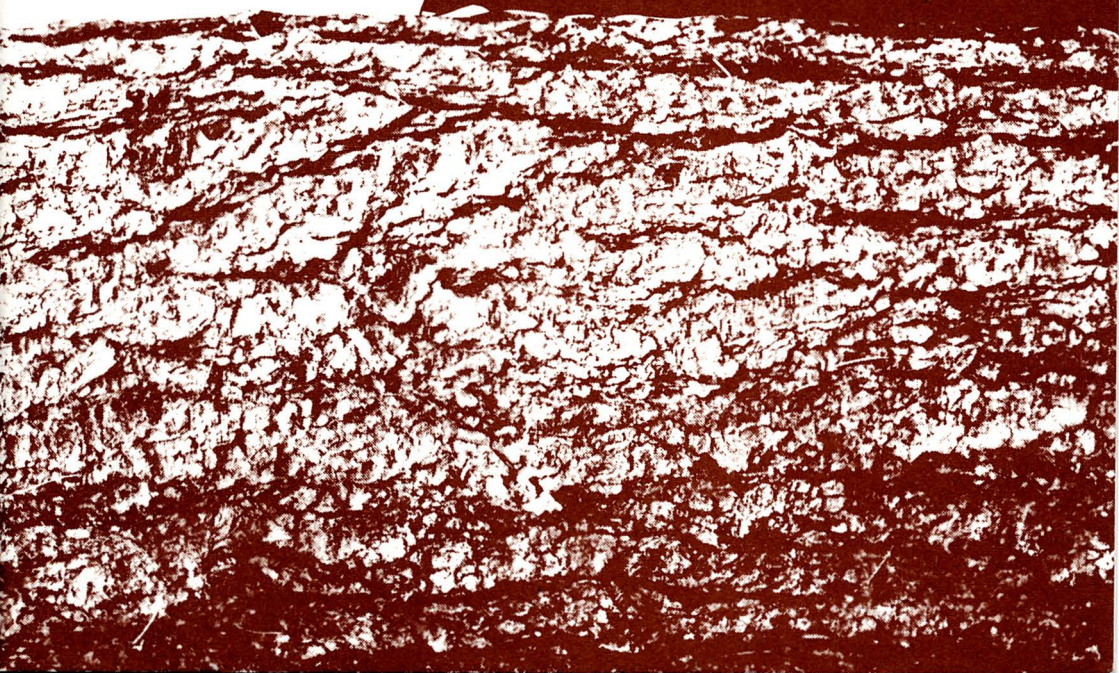


Bill

SOFTWOOD SAWLOGS

— PRESENTATION FOR SALE



THE PRESENTATION OF SOFTWOOD SAWLOGS IN FORESTRY COMMISSION SALES.

INTRODUCTION

1. At a Joint Committee meeting of the Home Timber Merchants' Associations and the Forestry Commission in March 1978 it was agreed that the presentation of softwood sawlogs by the Forestry Commission should be looked at in detail. Members of the two Trade Associations had expressed concern at the lack of uniformity between Conservancies on methods of description, measurement, straightness and presentation in log sales generally. The Forestry Commission accepted the need to continually improve classification of sawlogs before presentation for sale and it was agreed that a Working Party, with representatives of the Trade Associations and the Commission, should be set up with the following terms of reference:

- a. to examine the current methods of softwood sawlog description, specification and measurement in Forestry Commission softwood sawlog sales and to make recommendations;
- b. to consider whether there is a need for the grading of softwood sawlogs;
- c. to consider the implementation of any changes recommended and to report to the Joint Liaison Committee by not later than 30 September 1978.

2. In arriving at a set of recommendations the Working Party pointed out that care had been taken to see that these were of a general and basic nature so as to avoid superimposing any form of theoretical system which did not meet the needs of either the Commission or the sawmiller. The Working Party's report and recommendations were considered at further meetings of the Joint Committee in Edinburgh on 7 November 1978 and 21 March 1979, at Thetford on 8 and 9 May 1979 and in Edinburgh on 6 November 1979. As a result of these discussions it is the Forestry Commission's intention that its own sales of softwood sawlogs will be in accordance with the following proposals which are considered capable of adaptation to suit a variety of local circumstances and different market requirements throughout the country. The specifications are intended to provide a flexible framework while at the same time achieving some uniformity in the Commission's own methods of presenting softwood logs for sale. The question of a comprehensive system for grading softwood sawlogs was discussed at length by representatives of the Trade Associations and the Commission but it was concluded that it would be inappropriate to introduce such grading on a national basis at this stage. Nevertheless, the question will be reviewed in future should the need arise.

PROCEDURES

3. All sales will be on an underbark basis. For long lengths (those in excess of 8.1m) sale will be on an underbark basis but volume will be arrived at by measurement overbark, less an allowance for bark using an appropriate conversion factor for each species. All bids at auction and tender will be called for in £/cubic metre underbark.

4. It will be normal practice for potential purchasers to have the opportunity of examining parcels before any cross-cutting is carried out.
5. Where possible logs will be classified, and three main softwood sawlog categories will cover all types of classified sale throughout the country. Two of these categories will be sub-divided, mainly on the basis of length and straightness. Where practical difficulties prevent sorting, logs will be sold unclassified.
6. A summary of the methods of presentation for sale are shown in Tables 1 and 2 and the following points should be noted:

SALES OF
CLASSIFIED
LOGS (Table 1)

- a. *VOLUME MEASUREMENT.* Will be according to Forestry Commission Booklet No 31 *Metric Top Diameter Sawlog Tables* which give log contents to two decimals of a cubic metre.
- b. *DIAMETER MEASUREMENT.* Top diameter will be measured across the smallest way underbark and rounded down to the nearest even number of centimetres.
- c. *LENGTH.* Will be that of the shortest side rounded down to the nearest 0.3m increment (0.1m increment in the case of logs less than 3m) after allowing not less than 5cm extra for squaring.
- d. *CROSS-CUT STEPS.* The Commission will endeavour to meet the customer's length requirements, so far as is possible, within the following options. In appropriate cases, as defined below, an additional charge will be negotiated over and above the bid price.
 - i. Logs will be cut to customer's preferred lengths in 0.1m (less than 3m log lengths) or 0.3m steps (3 m–8.1m log lengths), within the limits of log volume maximisation, with the balance being produced in other lengths which fall within the description of the logs as offered for sale — *No charge.*
 - ii. Logs will be cut to customer's preferred lengths (i.e. out-with the 0.1m or 0.3m steps), within the limits of log volume maximisation, with the balance being produced in other lengths which fall within the description of the logs as offered for sale — *A charge may be made.* The principle of the charge, which will be negotiated, being the estimated cost additional to (i) above.
 - iii. Specific stated lengths only produced. A charge will be made, the amount being related to the additional cost of cross-cutting or loss of log volume maximisation or both — *The amount of the charge will be negotiated.*

e. *STRAIGHTNESS*

i. *Select Sawlogs*

Select sawlogs have to meet the best straightness specification. The principle is that the sawmiller should be able to put these logs on the sawbench without further cross-cutting

Method of Assessment:

Logs bent in more than one plane are excluded.

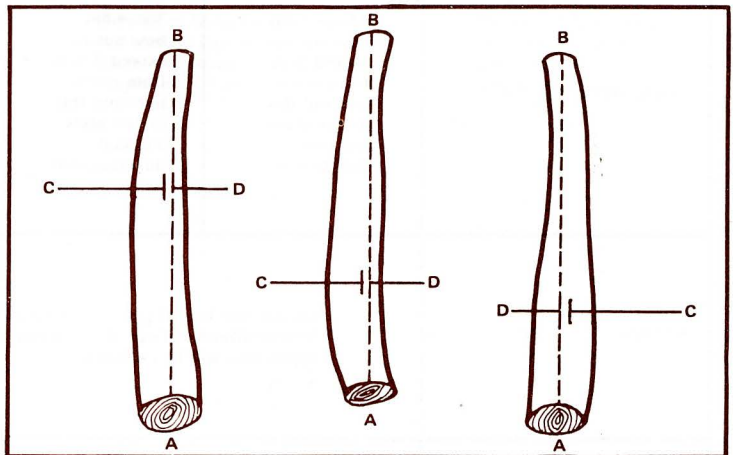
The bow, which will be in not more than one plane and one direction, must not be greater than the deviation shown in Table 1 measured as follows and illustrated below.

The log is laid so that the plane in which the bow occurs is parallel with the ground.

AB = The straight line (stretched tape) along the top of the log between points above the centre of each end.

C = The point on top of the log above its centre where deviation from AB is greatest.

C-D = Deviation.



ii. *Standard Logs*

Standard logs will be reasonably straight but generally will not meet the standards of straightness required by select sawlogs.

Method of Assessment:

A straight line from the centre of the butt to the centre of the top end will pass within the circumference of the log not less than 3cm from the outside of the log which shall include bark.

The bow will be in not more than one plane and one direction.

FORESTRY COMMISSION SOFTWOOD SAWLOG SALES

(Table 1)

CLASS	CLASSIFIED				
DESCRIPTION	SELECT SAWLOGS		STANDARD LOGS	MERCHANTABLE LOGS	
SPECIES	TO BE STATED				
VOLUME MEASUREMENT	FORESTRY COMMISSION BOOKLET No. 31 (volume under bark)				
DIAMETER MEASUREMENT	TOP DIAMETER UNDER BARK (TDUB)				
TOP DIAMETER	Minimum TDUB must be stated. Not less than 18cm.		Minimum TDUB must be stated.	Minimum TDUB must be stated. Normally 18 cm and certainly not below 14cm.	Minimum TDUB must be stated. Certainly not below 12cm.
LENGTH	3m–8.1m		Less than 3m	3m–8.1m	3m–8.1m
CROSS–CUT STEPS	0.3m		0.1m	0.3m	0.3m
STRAIGHTNESS	Above 4.8m bow not to exceed 5cm from centre line and this in one plane and one direction only.	3m–4.8m bow not to exceed 2.5cm from centre line and this in one plane and one direction only.	Bow not to exceed 1.5cm from centre line and this in one plane and one direction only.	A straight line from the centre of the butt to the centre of the top will pass within circumference of log not less than 3cm from outside of log including bark. Bow in one plane and one direction only.	Capable of being cross-cut without significant waste into straight lengths of at least 1.5m.
KNOTS	On any one log 90 per cent of knots will not exceed 5cm in diameter. Logs of an excessively coarse appearance will be excluded.			On any one log 80 per cent of knots will not exceed 5cm in diameter. Logs of an excessively coarse appearance will be excluded.	No restriction on knot size and frequency.
LOG ENDS	Cross-cuts including felling cuts as square as practicable. Root spurs well dressed. Snedding flush to stem. Splits and double tops not permitted.			Cross-cuts including felling cuts as square as practicable. Root spurs well dressed. Snedding flush to stem.	
SCARS/DECAY	Visible decay and significant scars will not be permitted.			Significant scars and significant visible decay will not be permitted.	
INSECT DAMAGE AND STAIN	Staining and other visible insect damage will not be present when made available for loading.			No restriction on staining. Significant insect damage will not be permitted when made available for loading.	
BLUE STAIN	To minimise the infection of logs with blue stain the Commission undertakes to bring them to the loading point within 4 weeks of felling. In view of this undertaking the Commission will not accept blue stain as a defect or entertain claims in respect of it.				
METAL	Logs suspected of containing metal will not be included.				
REMARKS	Average dbh of the standing trees should be stated where possible.				

iii. *Merchantable Logs*

Merchantable logs will be suitable for short length production. The expectation is that merchantable logs will have to be further cross-cut to give a good degree of straightness or, alternatively, if they are cut in the full length then it will be normal to produce sawn timber with a fair amount of waste. The actual definition of straightness is that merchantable logs will be capable of being cross-cut without significant waste into straight lengths of at least 1.5m (1.0m in the case of short merchantable logs).

SALES OF
UNCLASSIFIED
LOGS (Table 2)

f. Where the above methods are not applied then logs will be sold unclassified.

g. The notes on length and cross-cut steps for classified sales apply in the same way to unclassified sales.

h. *DIAMETER MEASUREMENT AND VOLUME MEASUREMENT*

For lengths up to and including 8.1m top diameter and volume measurement will be underbark in the same way as classified sales. For logs over 8.1m the unit of sale will be cubic metres underbark but measurement will be by length and mid-diameter overbark according to Forestry Commission booklet No 26 *Volume Ready Reckoner for Round Timber* less an allowance for bark using conversion factors agreed with the Trade Associations. This is because the *Metric Top Diameter Sawlog Tables* (Forestry Commission Booklet 31) are not applicable to lengths over 8.1m.

The agreed conversion factors are shown in Table 3.

j. There will be no specification for straightness etc. where logs are sold unclassified. Advertisements will be specific and descriptive and where possible average diameter at breast height (dbh) will be included. If it is suspected that a particular lot will contain metal then that lot will be so described.

FORESTRY COMMISSION SOFTWOOD SAWLOG SALES

(Table 2)

CLASS	UNCLASSIFIED	
SPECIES	TO BE STATED	
VOLUME MEASUREMENT	Lengths up to 8.1m. Forestry Commission Booklet 31. Volume underbark.	Lengths over 8.1m. Forestry Commission Booklet 26. Volume overbark converted to volume underbark – see Table 3 below.
DIAMETER MEASUREMENT	Top Diameter Under Bark	Mid Diameter Over Bark
TOP DIAMETER	Minimum TDUB must be stated. Normally not below 14cm	
LENGTH	To be stated	
CROSS-CUT STEPS	Lengths less than 3m = 0.1m Lengths 3m and over = 0.3m	
REMARKS	As seen (Log Samples or Stand). Average dbh of the standing trees should be stated where possible	

CONVERSION FACTORS

(Table 3)

Underbark Volume = Overbark Volume multiplied by the conversion factor.	
The agreed conversion factors are as follows:-	
<i>Species</i>	<i>Conversion Factor</i>
Scots pine, Lodgepole pine	.87
Corsican pine	.83
Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Grand fir, Noble fir	.92
European larch	.82
Japanese larch, Hybrid larch	.85
Douglas fir	.88
Western hemlock, Red cedar, Lawson cypress	.90

Here are some publications to help you get the best out of the woods.

Booklets

- No.26 Volume Ready Reckoner for Round Timber
- No.30 Metric Conversion Tables and Factors
- No.31 Metric Top Diameter Sawlog Tables
- No.37 Volume Tables for Smallwood and Round Pitwood
- No.39 Forest Mensuration Handbook
- No.45 Standard Time Tables and Output Guides

Leaflets

- No.75 Harvesting of Windthrown Trees
- No.77 Line Thinning

Bulletin

- No.14 Forestry Practice

Details of these and other titles from
Publications, Forest Research Station, Alice Holt Lodge,
Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LH.
Tel. 0420 22255 extension 305

ISBN 0 85538 084 5

© Crown copyright 1980

Reprinted 1983

Printed by Sawtells of Sherborne Ltd and published by the
Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Rd., Edinburgh EH12 7AT

