



Wood measurement in France

**French contribution to the European Wood Measurement meeting
September 6-8, 2011**

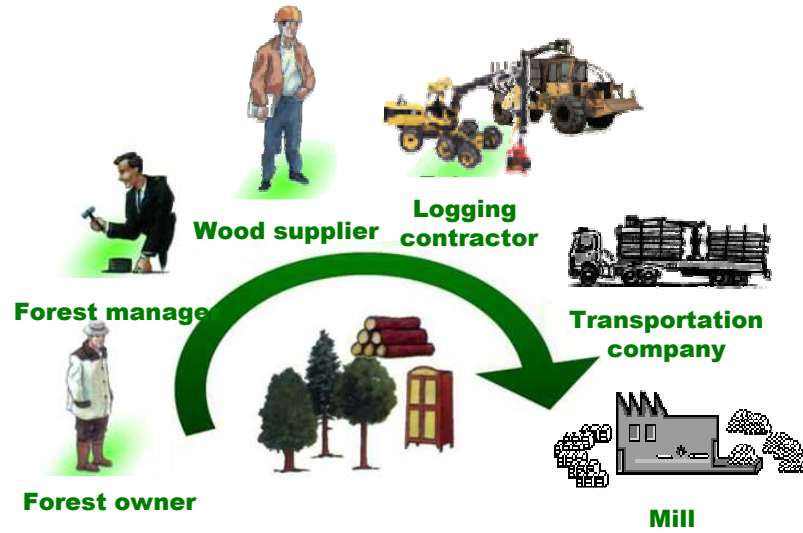
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Organisation of ROUND wood scaling

- **Round wood scaling is a key information for**
 - round wood transactions : contract between sellers and buyers
 - Logging operation contracts : between operation organiser and entrepreneurs acting as service providers (motor manual harvesting, mechanized harvesting, skidding or transport)
- **Wood scaling is often redundant and performed by many actors**

Organisation and actors of the French wood supply chain



	Activities								Companies or Individuals
	Forest Mgmt	Selling Standing timber	Bying standing timber	Logging Op	Selling round wood	Bying round wood	Transport	Process	
ONF (responsible for public-owned forests)									1
Private owner (75% of the total forest area)									4 Millions
Forest Experts									195
Forest Cooperatives									28
Independant Wood suppliers									2476
Integrated Wood suppliers									1064
Logging entrepreneurs (800 Harvesters, 1 200 forwarders, 1 400 skidders, 10 000 Timberjacks)									7000
Transport entrepreneurs									870
Primary Processing mills									1991
Sawmills									1958
Pulp & Paper mills									11
Panel mills									22



Wood scaling framework

- **Round wood national harvest (2009) : 38 Mm³ including 9Mm³ of hardwood species**
- **NF B53 020 is used for wood measurement related to Dimensions but...**
 - this national normative is not fully adopted by actors
 - regional practices still exist and the lack of transparency can sometimes prevent forest owners from fully trusting the sector
- **Qualitative classification is crucial for Hardwood transactions but...**
 - European normative (EN 1316) are scarcely used in the field
 - Regional practices prevail with the same transparency issue
- **Work in progress for scaling of wood chips (European working group)**



Relations between sellers and buyers in the forest

- **Many situations due to forest ownership, multiple forest types and the variability of WSC actors...**

Type of Sell	Contract based on ...	Responsible for the wood measurement
Standing timber as a block	Initial estimation of the volume (identified as “to-be-harvested”)	Buyer
Standing timber	Initial estimation of the volume with later final payment based on actual result of the harvest	Buyer and Seller crossing their results
Roadside	Actual volume available at the roadside	Buyer and Seller crossing their results
Delivered to the mill gate	Actual volume delivered to the mill	Buyer and Seller crossing their results

- **... with possible extra measurements every time a contractor is involved**



Relations between sellers and buyers in the forest : trends for the future

- **Multi-annual supply contracts between forest owners and mills are getting common**
- **ONF and Forest cooperatives will keep pushing this development in the following years**
 - **ONF : www.onf.fr/filiere_bois/@@index.html**
 - **Cooperatives : www.ucff.asso.fr/vente_bois.htm**
- **Such evolution will call for easier information exchanges between actors and reduce scaling redundancy**
- **Limit : it remains difficult for actors to trust each other when implementing new practices or technologies**



Information systems

- **Many actors work with IT systems which integrate wood measurements collected in the field (ONF, Cooperatives, big wood suppliers...)**
- **Existing information systems do not communicate with one another and Inter-operability is a challenge for the future**
- **Collective R&D projects try to steer data exchange along the supply chain**
 - **BLOGFOR (www.eepbois.fr)** : Launched discussion about standardized data exchange in the WSC and designed 9 eDocuments according to Papinet
 - **éMOBOIS** (in progress) aims at defining and deploying the standardised and collective infrastructure that will ease electronic data exchange in the WSC



Technology & practices used in the Forest

- Only 35 % of the harvest is mechanised (mostly softwood species on flat terrain)...

And

- On-board computers (harvester) are used for production purposes but rarely to generate scaling report (for the head office or the wood supplying co.)

→ Hence, wood scaling is still done manually

- Scaling results are mostly collected automatically (callipers and pocket PC) but the piece of paper still exists
- Control is an internal procedures performed in a 1to1 relationship



Technology used at the mill gate

- In most sawmills (out of the 2 000) control is an internal procedure which consists in crossing measurement done at the mill gate with information collected in the forest (by the seller)
- In a few cases, control involves a certification by a third party : about 20 sawmills (softwood big players) are equipped with Automatic scanner whose measurement method is certified according to NF B53 020 (+/- 3% error)
 - Certification : « CTB Cubage bois rond »
 - See also : http://www.fcba.fr/certification/certification-fiche.php?id_fich=3133





Development in progress

- **EXPLOTIC : regional project dealing with technical and organisation issues whose pilot enables communication in a standardized format (StandforD) between:**
 - Forest machines and their head-office
 - Contractors (entrepreneur) with their clients (wood supply companies)
- **Bucking instructions, harvester and forwarder production data contain Wood measurement data useful both to the entrepreneur and the wood supply co.**
- **Next step (2012) : further deployment on 200 forest machines, 80 Entrepreneurs and the 4 main wood supply companies in Aquitaine**

See also : Arraiolos A., Vuillermoz M., Bigot M., « ICT deployment strategy in Aquitaine WSC : the ExploTIC project breakthrough » ; COFE meeting 2011 ; June 2011.



Thank you !

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