
**Interim Scope of Practice for Certified Forest Measurements
Specialists – Accredited Timber Cruisers (ATC) and Accredited
Timber Evaluators (ATE)**

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GUIDELINES

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Background

These interim guidelines on scope of practice for ATCs and ATEs have been developed by the Forest Measurements Board (FMB) and approved by the ABCFP council. They are meant to enable the transfer of ATCs and ATEs from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) to the ABCFP. After the transfer has been completed, these guidelines will be revised so they are in the same format as the Scope of Practice Guidelines for Registered Forest Technologists and will include more specific examples of practices for ATCs and ATEs.

The FMB was originally called the Timber Cruising Accreditation Board and the Certification Program was established in 1994 with the first Accreditation (Certification) of Cruisers on September 15th, 1995. ASTTBC developed the Timber Cruising Certification Program as a way to ensure that the practitioners carrying out timber cruising activities were competent and, within a professional registration scheme, to be professionally accountable for their work. The program, launched with the cooperation of practitioners and the then Ministry of Forests, was managed by the Timber Cruising Accreditation Board, subsequently re-named the Timber Cruising Certification Board and then the Forest Measurements Registration Board (FMRB).

The FMRB's certification program provided for the registration of cruisers as either ATCs or ATEs. In December 2008, ASTTBC and the ABCFP reached an agreement to transfer the Timber Cruising Certification Program from the ASTTBC to the ABCFP. During this transfer, the FMRB was re-named as the Forest Measurements Board (FMB) and as a condition of the transfer, a scope of practice for ATCs and ATEs had to receive joint approval and ultimately, approval from the ABCFP council.

The ATE and ATC

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

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

In all cases, ATCs and ATEs will only carry out work for which they are authorized under these interim guidelines and qualified based on their education, training, experience and proven competencies and are expected to comply with the appropriate ABCFP Bylaws.

These guidelines are intended to reflect the successful working relationship that currently exists between ATCs and ATEs and other forest professionals.

The Role of an Accredited Timber Cruiser (ATC)

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

ATC's functions and professional accountabilities within their scope of practice tend to be more narrowly defined and focused (primarily field aspects of timber cruising), than those of ATEs, 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 scope of practice limits for the ATC. For example, collecting many types of cruise related measurement data and attesting to its completeness, correctness and clarity would be considered within the practice scope of an ATC.

While ATCs are expected to sign and seal/stamp appropriate professional work products as per Bylaw 10.5, their normal work product (field timber cruising measurements) is not conducive to sealing/stamping. Therefore, their field plot product must display their name and professional designation.

Scope of Practice of an Accredited Timber Cruiser (ATC)

The following practice scope descriptions and examples are not intended to be a comprehensive listing nor a complete definition of the scope of practice for ATCs. 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. More scope of practice examples will be developed as appropriate.

Technical aspects of an ATC's scope of practice include:

- Forest measurements for the purpose of timber cruising,
- Portions of forest resource surveys and inventories which require the supervision and implementation of forest measurements required for timber cruising, and
- Photogrammetric interpretation and mapping required for timber cruising and evaluation under the direction of an ATE, RFT or RPF.

The aspects of timber cruising-related measurement practices that may be conducted by an ATC include:

- Preparing for cruise surveys and implementing and performing data collection for timber cruises,
- Preparing and implementing operational timber reconnaissance and forest timber inventory data collection,
- Collecting timber appraisal, and or timber evaluation data,
- Interpreting forest features and attributes from air photos with respect to timber reconnaissance and timber cruising and evaluation under the direction of an ATE, RFT or RPF.
- Verifying the above interpreted forest features through 'on site' procedures, and
- Preparing operational timber cruising and evaluation maps and assisting with associated reports under the direction of an ATE, RFT or RPF.

Example 1

A logging plan map is received. The ATC ensures that all necessary data and information are provided and assists under the direction of an ATE, RFT or RPF to

develop a cruise plan to a specified standard. The ATC will collect the data. The ATC may produce final maps and strata and may compile, or arrange to compile, the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard under the direction of an ATE, RFT or RPF.

Example 2

Forest inventory objectives are set. A forest professional develops a sampling plan. An ATC, with appropriate competence and direction from an ATE, RFT or RPF, may follow photo interpretation procedures and/or classification systems to develop the initial estimation of the forest cover polygon attributes. An ATC, as noted above, can carry out field sampling activities to verify the estimated polygon attributes. The ATC may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard under the direction of an ATE, RFT or RPF.

The Role of an Accredited Timber Evaluator (ATE)

ATEs typically work within a forestry team that includes forest professionals and administrative staff. In addition to certain education related distinctions between ATEs and other forest professionals, the role of ATEs recognizes the additional experience, knowledge and competencies that a supervisory position requires.

ATE's functions and professional accountabilities within their scope of practice tends to be more narrowly defined and focused (timber cruising and evaluation) 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 scope of practice limits for the ATE. For example, designing, supervising and quality assurance of cruise related measurement data and attesting to its completeness, correctness and clarity would be considered within the practice scope of an ATE.

ATEs are expected to sign and seal/stamp appropriate professional work products as per Bylaw 10.5.

Scope of Practice of an Accredited Timber Evaluator (ATE)

The following practice scope descriptions and examples are not intended to be a comprehensive listing nor a complete definition of the scope of practice for ATEs. 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. More scope of practice examples will be developed as appropriate.

Technical aspects of an ATE's scope of practice include:

- Forest measurements for timber cruising and standing timber evaluation
- Portions of forest resource surveys and inventories which require the planning, supervision, implementation and quality assurance of forest measurements required for timber cruising,
- Training, supervision and quality assurance for field measurements related to timber cruising and evaluation,
- Timber valuation, and
- Photogrammetric interpretation and mapping required for timber cruising and evaluation.

The aspects of timber cruising-related measurement practices that may be conducted by an ATE include:

- Preparing cruise surveys and sample designs to a specified standard and implementing, training and performing data collection, quality control and assurance for timber cruises,
- Preparing, training, implementing and supervising operational timber reconnaissance and forest timber inventory data collection, as well as the quality assurance,
- Collecting, preparing and summarizing timber appraisal, and or timber evaluation data
- Interpreting forest features and attributes from air photos with respect to timber reconnaissance and timber cruising and evaluation,
- Verifying the above interpreted forest features through 'on site' procedures, and
- Preparing operational timber cruising and evaluation maps and associated reports.

Example 1

A logging plan map is received. The ATE will ensure that all necessary data and information is provided and 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 should produce and review final maps and strata. The ATE may compile, or arrange to compile, the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard. The ATE may

provide timber valuations.

Example 2

Forest inventory objectives are set. A forest professional develops a sampling plan. An ATE, with appropriate competence, may follow photo interpretation procedures and/or classification systems to develop the initial estimation of the forest cover polygon attributes. An ATE, as noted above, will carry out, supervise and provide quality assurance for the field sampling activities to verify the estimated polygon attributes. The ATE may compile the data and summarize in a report to a specified standard.



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