

Idaho Cubic Log Scaling Manual

**Timber Measurements Society
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
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CUBIC

- If you want some lively conversation just mention the “C” word.
- The gloves come off and people are ready to fight.
- So, let me clarify right up front.



CUBIC

- The Idaho Board of Scaling Practices is not considering switching to Cubic scale.
- The topic is not even being discussed.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- **IDAPA 20.06.01 500. METHOD OF SCALING FOREST PRODUCTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.**
01. Scribner Decimal “C”. Log scaling by the Scribner decimal “C” method shall be made according to scaling practices and procedures described in the “Idaho Log Scaling Manual**” and Sections 501 through 504 of these rules. (5-8-09)**

IDAHO LOG SCALING MANUAL

- Describes the rules and procedures for scaling within the State.
- Gross scale is mandatory and specific.
- Cannot be modified by contract.
- Net scale rules are also mandatory but...
- Can be modified by contract, provided they are posted in the scale shack.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

02. Cubic Volume. Log scaling by a cubic volume method shall be made according to scaling practices and procedures agreed upon in writing between parties to a scaling agreement. (5-8-09)

This is basically the only law that was on the books for cubic. For years nobody was interested in scaling cubic.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- At the time when the law was first amended to allow for cubic, there was no official manual yet.
- The Forest Service had given notice they would likely be switching to cubic.
- They started testing the waters by scaling pulp and cedar products in cubic.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- Some of the existing companies were using the Forest Service scale for payment purposes and wanted to be able to continue doing so.
- The Scaling Board approved it and the law was amended.

National Cubic Foot Log Scaling Handbook

FSH 2409.11a

Amendment No.: 2409.11a-91-1

Effective Date: May 22, 1991

**National
Forest
Cubic Scaling
Handbook**



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service



WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- Another section of IDAPA 20.06.01-100
- 100.PAYMENT FOR LOGGING OR HAULING.
- Basically, it states payment for logging and hauling must be paid on the bases of Gross scale or gross weight.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- Around 1995 the Scaling Board asked “What exactly determines gross scale”?
- A 32' 8" log going into one landing would be scaled as a 32-foot log. Yet another would scale this same log as a 30-foot log, and yet another would scale it for a 24-log.
- Diameters were the same way, minimum top diameters varied from 4.5" to 10".

WHY A IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- Over the years these discrepancy's lead to the creation of mandatory length determination tables as well as minimum top diameters.
- The only gross scale modification allowed in Idaho is that you can utilize a smaller top diameter than 5.51".

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- Currently, IDAPA 20.06.01-100 states
- 100.PAYMENT FOR LOGGING OR HAULING.
- Provisions of Section 38-1220(b), Idaho Code, govern payment for logging or hauling. (3-20-04)
- 01. Gross Scale Determination. Gross scale shall be determined by the methodology stated in Chapter Two (2) of the “Idaho Log Scaling Manual.” (5-8-09)

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- At the time the “Idaho Log Scaling Manual” was written, nobody in Idaho was expressing any real interest in cubic scaling.
- The Forest Service wasn’t much of a player any more and everybody was scaling Scribner.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- That all changed sometime around 2012.
- One of the larger companies and the Idaho Department of Lands started expressing an interest in scaling cubic.
- In 2013 the Scaling Board clarified that the current rules for measuring log lengths, diameter measurements, and the length determination tables must be used for cubic.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- The Board also authorized some taper studies and log roll-outs to check the feasibility of scaling cubic and compare the differences.
- It was became quickly apparent that the Forest Service Cubic Scaling Handbook and the Idaho Log Scaling Manual had some differences.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- Some of the differences include:
 1. Log lengths - measuring broken ends.
 2. Minimum trim allowance – USFS plus 2"
 3. Diameters – measuring catfaces and sloughed off sap.
 4. Revised Scribner vs standard Scribner.

WHY AN IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL?

- USFS CUBIC uses a cull determination factor of 10.67 which is based on revised Scribner.
- Idaho uses standard Scribner. This resulted in some logs being culled that currently have one-third merchantability.
- This is a major sticking point.
- The easiest remedy is to write an Idaho cubic scaling manual.

IDAHO CUBIC LOG SCALING MANUAL

- A committee was formed to establish the rules and procedures for the manual.
- Committee members are from industry, Idaho Dept. of Lands, private land owners, and the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices.
- We do have a first draft copy of the manual.
- The committee met last Friday in Cd'A and reviewed it for the first time.

IDaho CUBIC LOG SCALING MANUAL

- Changes to the existing draft will be done shortly and sent back out to the committee members for review.
- We will meet again in the near future and review it again.
- The goal will be to have a completed version to take to the Board at the May 20th Board meeting.

BASIC RULES IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL

- Current gross scale determination rules will apply. (lengths, diameters, and trim)
- All logs will be scaled in a dual cubic/Scribner program.
- Standard Scribner will be set as the “driver” for the program.
- Minimum merchantability will be based on Scribner volume.

BASIC RULES IDAHO CUBIC MANUAL

- In most cases the handheld program is capable of computing both cubic and Scribner defect volumes accurately.
- In the rare occasion that is not the case, Scribner rules will be the default. (ie, a small void outside the scaling cylinder, or a cone shaped rot in the butt)

Any Questions?

