

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The procedures used for a survey of an agency's performance are Section 12 of the Enforcement Regulations and the minutes of the Board of Review meeting of October 22, 1981, October 27, 1988, June 13, 1991 and October 21, 1999.

The following methodology is used in setting up the surveys that are used by the Board of Review of the ALS for agencies with greater than 2.5 billion board feet of annual shipments:

A list of current mills using the services of an agency is requested from each agency approved by the Board of Review. The mills are grouped into size categories – SMALL (less than 25 million board feet per year), MEDIUM (between 25 and 75 million board feet per year), and LARGE (more than 75 million board feet per year). The total agency volume is divided into the amount shipped in each category to get the percentage of volume that is shipped in each category. The percentage of volume is multiplied by the number of mills to be surveyed. The mills are then selected using a computer program for random selecting without replacement.

The Board directed the staff to conduct a minimum of two 10% surveys (minimum of 10% in each size category) on each agency per year. The Board limited the total number of mills sampled per survey to a maximum of 15.0%. If it is necessary to adjust the sample to meet the 15.0% requirement, the size category with the largest number of mills should be reduced until the 15.0% requirement is met. If a survey shows the grade or moisture content to be in excess of a percentage predetermined by the Board an additional survey shall be made (7.5% was selected). The mills will be selected by the same method as an initial survey.

The following methodology is used for surveys for agencies with less than 2.5 billion board feet of annual shipments:

This method is essentially the same as the above method with two exceptions. The agency is sampled using a 15% sample of the total number of mills without volume weighing the selection of mills. The total number of mills sampled for any one survey shall be limited to 15.0%.

ADJUSTMENT TO SURVEY PROCEDURES

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Present survey procedures for mill selection involve the use of a computer program. The program selects mills on the basis of how "flags" are set for individual mills. When a mill is visited for survey purposes and lumber is inspected for survey the mill "flag" is set to that particular survey (if the survey visit results in an attempted inspection the "flag" is not set). When the program is run, the mills with the "flags" set for the most recent completed survey will

automatically be selected last. The mills with a “flag” set for a survey other than the most recent completed survey will be selected next and mills with no “flag” set will be selected first. This procedure has worked well in the past, however it has become apparent that by not setting the “flag” for attempted survey mill inspections the first mills selected are the ones in which there have consistently been attempted inspections. It has also become apparent in some agencies that mills with “flags” set for other than the last survey consistently come up at the bottom of the second group selected due to chance. The following changes in the survey mill selection process will address these concerns.

- 1) Mills which are visited for survey and are attempted inspections will have their “flags” set as if lumber was inspected thus forcing these mills to the bottom of the next survey list.
- 2) The total number of surveys required to rotate through the entire agency mill list will be calculated and any mill which have its “flags” set which is outside this time frame will have the “flag” cleared making it eligible to come up in the first group of mills selected.

Examples:

- 1) Agency over 2.5 billion feet of annual shipments:

Assume the most recently completed survey was 2-95 and two surveys were run each year:

	Large Mills	Medium Mills	Small Mills
#	15	25	80
# select per survey	5	5	8
# surveys to rotate through list	3	5	10
reset “flag” on mills earlier than	2-94	2-93	1-91

- 2) Agencies less than 2.5 billion feet of annual production:

Assume the most recently completed survey was 2-95 and two surveys were run each year:

# Total Mills	35
# select per survey	5
# surveys to rotate through list	7
reset “flag” on mills earlier than	2-92

12/99

JHM:jw