

*TIMBER MEASUREMENT FOR STANDING SALES USING
TARIFF TABLES.* By G. J. Hamilton. Forestry Commis-
sion Booklet No. 36. H.M.S.O. 14p.

This booklet gives a little of the basic theory behind the tariff (local volume) tables and much practical advice on their use.

Tariff tables presented previously in the British Forestry Commission's Forest Record No. 31 and Supplement No. 1 are available since 1956. The system has been tested and proved to be a consistent and precise method of measuring standing timber. It is applicable to both thinnings and fellings. Up to now, there have been limitations to the use of the tariff system in stands of widely varying composition. These have now been removed, but to attain a reasonable level of precision, sampling must be adjusted to suit the circumstances. In fact a key is provided so that the most appropriate of three different sampling schemes may be selected. Notes on the key are included. An interesting one is the possible grouping of closely related species in early pole stage measurement.

Field work procedure, method of calculations, sources of error, checks and measurement conventions are dealt with fully. Notes on team organisation, line thinnings and the procedure to follow when there is an insufficient number of volume sampling trees measured, are included. A point of field work procedure which is questionable is the scribing of breast height and mid-diameter points. This can affect measurement if checking is necessary. If a scribe is to be used, two marks, one just above and the other below the point of measurement might be better practice and prevent tapes from becoming coated with resin in measurement of conifers.

Assortment tables, which give volumes to various top diameters expressed as a percentage of volume to 7 cm top diameter, are used to give an estimate of volume in desired top diameter categories instead of volume categories based on breast height diameter.

This inexpensive, well presented publication is highly recommended.

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