

Questions & Answers for Area Based Billing Phase II

Question #1 – My logging contractor has felled 10 hectares of timber and may not yard and load out any timber for two months due to fire season. Must I submit the area cut even though the timber has not been moved?

Answer #1 – Yes, you must submit the area cut.

Question #2 – How do I account for a small area amendment to my cutting authority (CA) if the area is less than the area required for a re-cruise and reappraisal?

Answer #2 – Continue to submit the area harvested every month and if area has been added or deleted from the cutting authority for valid forest management reasons, then the final invoice for the cutting authority will be submitted using the FS699 (Ministry cruise based billing form) to account for the variation between the original CA and the amended total merchantable area.

Question #3 – I forgot to enter the harvest area for the 3 previous months and the stumpage rate changed two months ago. How do I ensure that the correct stumpage rate is applied to each monthly invoice?

Answer #3 – HBS will apply the stumpage rate to your invoice for the period when the harvesting occurred. Penalties for late submission may apply.

Question #4 – Why are the *Forest Tenure Administration* (FTA) and *General Appraisal System* (GAS) areas different in the *Cruise Based Activity Report*?

Answer #4 – The CA areas in GAS are reported using the final net merchantable cruise area in the cruise compilation *Appraisal Summary Report*. The CA areas in FTA are reported from the sum of the block net areas in the *Block Detail Screens*. For example, area variations between GAS and FTA may be due to additional area that is reported in FTA for a special use permit area that was harvested before the CA was logged. The *Cruise Based Activity Report* provides a detailed review of the appraisal, harvesting and billing progress, which will assist the Ministry billing personnel with the reconciliation of the appraisal, harvest and the invoiced areas and volumes.

Question #5 – My cutting authority is approved in ECAS and a rate has been generated, but our logging contractor is not available for 6 months. Do I have to enter a nil area for the first 6 months that the CA is active?

Answer #5 – You do not have to enter an area until the month following the initial harvesting activity. Note that you must submit a notification of harvesting commencement letter to the district before any trees are cut on the CA. The area cut must be submitted for every month after cutting commences, including nil cutting for any months.