

SURVEY METHODOLOGY - TREATED WOOD AGENCIES

The procedures used for a survey of an agency's performance are Section 5.1 of the Treated Wood Enforcement Regulations and the Minutes of the Board of Review meeting of January 13 & 14, 1993.

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 750 million board feet of annual shipments:

A list of current plants using the services of an agency is requested from each agency accredited by the Board of Review. The plants are grouped into size categories - SMALL (less than 12 million board feet per year) and LARGE (more than 12 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 plants to be surveyed. The plants are then selected using a computer program for random selecting without replacement.

The Board directed the staff to conduct two 10% surveys (minimum of 10% in each size category) on each agency per year. The Board limited the total number of plants 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 plants should be reduced until the 15.0% requirement is met. If a survey shows the penetration or retention to be in excess of a percentage predetermined by the Board an additional survey shall be made (% was selected). The plants will be selected by the same method as an initial survey.

The following methodology is used for surveys for agencies with less than 750 million 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 plants without volume weighing the selection of plants. The total number of plants sampled for any one survey shall be limited to 15.0%.