

2002/10/17-02

THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

RESOLUTION OF THE PANEL OF ADMINISTRATORS

**Re: Forestry Classification Units
2003 Base Assessment Rates**

WHEREAS:

Pursuant to Section 82 of the *Workers Compensation Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 492 and amendments thereto (the "Act"), the Panel of Administrators (the "Panel") must approve and superintend the policies and direction of the Workers' Compensation Board (the "Board"), including policies respecting compensation, assessment, rehabilitation and occupational safety and health;

AND WHEREAS:

Section 39(1) of the Act requires that the Board, for the purposes of creating and maintaining an adequate accident fund, assess and levy on and collect from independent operators and employers in each class... sufficient funds, according to an estimate to be made by the Board;

AND WHEREAS:

Section 42 of the Act provides that the Board shall establish sub-classifications, differentials and proportions in assessment rates as between the different kinds of employment in the same class as may be considered just;

AND WHEREAS:

By resolution dated November 14, 2001, the Panel of Administrators for the purpose of assessment,

- (a) removed certain forestry Classification Units ("CUs") from their 2001 rate group to form one Industry and Rate Group designated as DR and assigned assessment rates for each of those CUs, and
- (b) directed that a review of forestry CUs and Rate Groups be conducted in consultation with industry representatives, so that a decision on the classification of the industry could be reached before assessment rates were determined for 2003;

AND WHEREAS:

By resolution dated August 27, 2002, the Panel determined that, effective January 1, 2003,

- (a) the CUs assigned to Rate Group DR in 2002 be assigned to Rate Groups in accordance with normal Board policy and practice for setting assessment rates, as set out in that resolution,
- (b) the Integrated Logging CU (No. 703008) be renamed "Integrated Forest Management" and redefined to cover firms responsible for the entire range of forest harvesting activities, and
- (c) firms presently assigned to the Integrated Logging CU that do not fall within the new description be reassigned to the other appropriate forestry CUs according to the nature of their activities;

AND WHEREAS:

Further consultation with the industry, and analysis by the Finance Division, as well as a survey conducted among employers in the Integrated Logging CU for the purpose of implementing the August 27, 2002, resolution, indicates that that decision should be modified in order to achieve its purpose that assessment rates not be an economic factor in the forest industry;

AND WHEREAS:

The Finance Division of the Board has advised that, for the purpose of levying assessments in 2003, it would be more appropriate to continue the system for classifying the forest industry in effect in 2002, but that the Integrated Logging CU should still be renamed and redefined;

THE PANEL OF ADMINISTRATORS RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Schedule of Employer Classification Units and 2003 Base Assessment Rates – Forestry attached as Appendix A to this Resolution is approved.
2. The Schedule of Employer Classification Units and 2003 Base Assessment Rates – Forestry, as approved by this Resolution, be incorporated into the 2003 Classification and Rate List and form part of the published policy of the Panel.
3. The Integrated Logging CU (No. 703008) will, effective January 1, 2003, be renamed "Integrated Forest Management" and redefined to only cover firms responsible for a substantial range of forest harvesting activities, including
 - Selecting trees for harvest,
 - Falling trees,
 - Bucking felled trees, and
 - Preparing felled trees for transport
4. Firms presently assigned to the Integrated Logging CU that do not fall within the new description will be reassigned to the other appropriate forestry CUs according to the nature of their activities.
5. The resolution dated August 27, 2002, is rescinded.
6. This resolution is a policy decision of the Panel and is effective January 1, 2003.

DATED at Richmond, British Columbia, October 17, 2002.

By The Workers' Compensation Board

**MAUREEN NICHOLLS, CHAIR
PANEL OF ADMINISTRATORS**

APPENDIX A

**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CLASSIFICATION UNITS AND 2003
BASE ASSESSMENT RATES - FORESTRY**

Rate Group	CU	CU Description	2002 Rate	2003 Rate
CI	703001	Chem Brushing,Weeding,Tree Thin,Space	5.87	6.51
CI	703002	Brushing,Weeding,Tree Thin,Space nes	5.87	6.51
DR	703003	Cable or Hi-Lead Logging	12.23	11.67
DR	703004	Dry Land Sort	6.32	7.17
CI	703005	Forest Fire Fighting	5.87	6.51
DR	703006	Ground Skidding,Horse Logging, Log Load	6.41	7.30
DR	703008	Integrated Forest Management	6.41	7.30
DR	703009	Log Booming	6.32	7.17
DR	703011	Log Processing	6.41	7.30
DR	703012	Logging Road Construct or Maintenance	6.32	7.17
DR	703013	Manual Tree Falling and Bucking	11.06	10.79
DR	703014	Mechanized Tree Falling	6.41	7.30
DR	703015	Shake Block Cutting	12.14	11.54
BN	703016	Tree Planting or Cone Picking	3.27	3.30
DR	732043	Helicopter Logging	10.97	10.48
DW	732044	Log Hauling	7.51	7.06