



Utilization Standards Updated February 2013

The Minnesota DNR, Division of Forestry surveys major wood consumers every two years, or as needed, to ensure that the state's utilization standards are consistent with current consumer utilization specifications. The state's standards in the following table are based on the average utilization standards of mills that use state wood. Each timber sale permit states the expected utilization of the species and products sold on the permit.

Product	Minimum Diameter (DIB)	Rot	Sweep/Crook
Tree length cordwood	3" for spruce 4" for all others	Follow cordwood guidelines. If the butt end is more than 50 percent rot, only the first 100-inch length is culled. The rest is considered merchantable.	No deduction accepted
Cordwood (pulp and bolts)	3" for spruce 4" for all others	Sticks must contain less than 50 percent rot on one end, based on the diameter of a stick. Rot is defined as any hollow cavity, significant stain, or soft (punky) wood that may be penetrated to a depth of 1 inch or more by a wood pencil or similar object.	8" in a 100-inch length if left in permit area
Sawtimber	10"	Conifers, other than cedar, must be at least 50 percent sound. Aspen must be at least 90 percent sound. Ash, cherry, red/white oak, hard maple, and walnut must be at least 33.3 percent sound.	8" in a 100-inch length if left in permit area
Veneer	12"	Maximum of one surface defect confined to one face.	8" in a 100-inch length if left in permit area

Sticks or logs failing to meet required cutting specifications in the timber permit or those defined in the table above are considered cull. When there are no cutting specifications in the timber permit and the sticks or logs fail to meet the specifications in the table above, they are also considered cull. Cull may be left in the woods or sorted and purchased as biomass or fuelwood with an approved "Added Timber Agreement."

Wood is to be utilized to the smallest product class for the species/products listed on the appraisal. Any wood left on site meeting the minimum specifications will be charged to the permit holder at the end of the permit. This includes trimming noncull sections of trees to produce higher value products such as bolts or sawtimber when a lower value product for the same species (e.g., pulpwood) is listed on the appraisal.

If the wood is hauled to a consumer scaler:

- No deductions will be accepted when a consumer’s standard is the same or more lenient than the state standard **until** the amount of rot exceeds 5 percent of the gross volume of the pile or load being scaled.
- The consumer’s cull will not be accepted when a consumer has more restrictive standards than the state standard **until** the deduction exceeds 10 percent of the gross volume of the pile or load.
- **Accepted cull deductions** are: (a) dead wood, (b) fire char, (c) contaminants (materials other than cordwood), and (d) loose piles or voids on stick-scaled wood.
- **Unaccepted cull deductions** are: (a) oversized wood; (b) long or short sticks; (c) excessive butt flare; (d) sweep, forks, or crooks; (e) splinters, sheared ends, or poor limbing; and (f) sticks below the minimum top diameter as specified on the permit.

Examples:

Merchantable



- Rot is acceptable in pulpwood and bolts as long as the fiber is firm.
- Flared butts may be trimmed to the end of the flare without being charged.

Not Merchantable



- Soft/punky wood that is 50 percent or more of the diameter and may be penetrated to a depth of 1 inch or more by a wood pencil or similar object.
- Holes equal to or more than 50 percent of the diameter are considered cull.
- Crook or sweep equal to or greater than an 8-inch deviation at any point in 100 inches of length if left on in the permit area.

