

IDAHO BOARD OF SCALING PRACTICES

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Jack Buell, Vice-chairman
H. Larry Stewart, Secretary
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Alan Harper

Date: June 27, 2018
To: **Office of the Governor**
From: Russ Hogan, Executive Director 
Subject: Executive Order No. 2017-06

On May 11, 2018 the Idaho Board of Scaling Practices held a regular Board meeting in Coeur d'Alene addressing the requirements of Executive Order 2017-06. Prior to the meeting, on June 14, 2017 a memorandum had been mailed out to all "interested persons" giving them the opportunity to express their views, opinions, or arguments concerning the subject of this Executive Order. It was requested their comments be submitted no later than May 31, 2018. A copy of this memorandum was also placed on the Scaling Board's website. No written comments were received.

In order for an individual to be issued a "Standard" (all species and products) log scalers' license, they must complete an application form, submit a \$25 fee, pass a written examination consisting of 50 questions with a minimum score of 70%, and successfully complete a practical examination consisting of 200 logs with a minimum net volume of 20,000 board feet. Allowable limits of variation for the practical portion of the exam is +/- 2.0% on gross volume, allowable net variance is determined by the percent of defect with a minimum +/- 2.0 % and a maximum +/- 5.0%. The time frame to set up and administer the licensing exam is approximately seven working days. Exams are held on Thursday and Friday, applicants will usually know within two working days after completion of the exam. If they pass, they are then issued an Idaho log scaler's license. Based on the last five years; there have been a total of 169 applicants with about a 53% pass rate. The cost of administering the licensing process is approximately \$206 per applicant. Licensing exams are held in the spring and if needed in fall.

A "Temporary permit" may be issued for an individual whose training has advanced to a point they are ready to scale for payment and are in between licensing exams. The applicant would need to submit an application, submit a \$25 fee, submit a letter from their employer requesting they be issued a temporary permit, and successfully complete a check scale of at least 10,000 board feet. Temporary permits are valid for three months.

For situations where the individual would not be required to possess the exacting skills needed to scale sawlogs the Board can also issue a "Specialty" license. The applicant is required to submit an application, submit a \$25 fee, and submit a letter from their employer describing the type of scaling that would justify the issuance of a specialty license. They would then have to successfully complete a check scale as determined by the Board of at least 10,000 board feet net volume. These are typically issued for poles, cedar products, or pulp.

All licenses are valid for a two-year period. In order to renew their license a scaler needs to have an acceptable check scale during that period and submit a \$25 renewal fee. They may also successfully take the licensing exam in lieu of a check scale.

Once licensed, scalers are subject to routine unannounced check scales by Idaho Board of Scaling Practices check scalers. If a scaler has three unacceptable check scales in a 12-month period, the scaler's license may be revoked or suspended. This is a very rare occurrence and as of this date, the Board has not revoked or suspended anyone's license. The last person who failed three check scales was in 2014; the Board required the individual's employer to provide additional training for the scaler until they could successfully pass their check scales. The measure was successful.

The primary purpose of the Scaling Board is to enforce log scaling standards prescribed by statute and regulations. The Board tests and licenses scaling practitioners and subjects them to routine, unannounced check scales to assure proficiency. The Scaling Board ensures professional quality in log scaling for the benefit of all parties with timber interests.

Upon review of the log scaler licensing requirements as directed by Executive Order 2017-06, the Scaling Board voted unanimously to continue with the licensing requirements as currently written with no recommendation for changes.