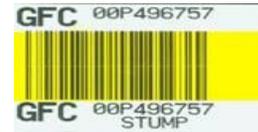


LOG TRACKING SYSTEM IN GUYANA



GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION



National Log Tracking System

Introduction

In 2001, a national log tracking system was developed and implemented in Guyana's forest sector. Under this system, felled logs, and stumps are identified using a plastic barcode tag that is attached immediately after logging or when logs are converted into pieces at timber collection points.

The log tracking system provides detectable evidence on the legitimacy, location and magnitude of forest operations and is currently applied to all forestry operations in-

cluding State Forests, Amerindian Reservations and Private Properties. In the latter two cases, log tracking is required as long as logs or primary lumber are being transported from the Reservation or Private Property. This system allows for forest produce originating from Guyana, and used in any part of the world, to be tracked to the stump of the tree that the wood was taken from.

The system is regulated by the use of Log Tags which are assigned to all concessionaires/operators, each year, free of charge, and is based on the Annual Allowable Cut in the

case of forest concessions, and upon request, in the case of Amerindian Reservations and Private Properties.

In the initial years of the system implementation, the log tracking was largely manual. This system has since been advanced to include electronic bar code tracking for which implementation has begun at a pilot scale. Protocols and guidelines are being developed to ensure that tracking is possible along the entire supply chain to the final point of sale.



A tagged stump

Log/ Lumber Tracking is the process of tracing logs or lumber material through the supply chain to know from where in a particular product came from. The system is design to gather, store and report information about the flow of wood products into, out of, or across a country or region.

Why Log Tracking is important?

Log tracking is important because:

- It prevents log and lumber theft
- Aids in controlling illegal logging

- It indicates the source of the produce (logs or lumber)
- It allows for purchaser to understand clearly the produce origin and aids in proper record keeping and accountability.
- It allows for greater transparency in trade of Guyana's timber products.

How does the System Work?

1. Log tagging is done at the felled tree stump.
2. Half of the tag is affixed to the stump (stump tag) at the time of felling and the other part bearing the same sequence of numbers as recorded on the stump tag is affixed to the produce being conveyed.
3. It is advised that concessionaire/operator, paint on the tag number onto the log in cases where damage to the tag might occur during conveyance to the market or saw mill.
4. All forest produce including logs, lumber, piles, poles and posts should be tagged.
5. Unique alphanumeric tag numbers are used to identify tags. The unique tag number indicates the specific operator and also indicates the geographic origin of the forest produce within the forest estate.