



NH Division of Forests and Lands
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University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension

NH Timber Harvesting Law Fact Sheet

Deceptive Forestry Business Practices (RSA 227-J:15)

Buying and selling forest products can be confusing and occasionally deception occurs. Therefore, it is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of how the wood will be measured, what the prices are, and how each party will be paid. A written contract, with mutually agreed-upon prices and amounts, as well as time-line for remuneration is required for all forest products which are subject to a notice of intent to cut. The contract must be signed by both parties.

The following describes Deceptive Forestry Business Practices.

A person is guilty of a Class B felony if the loss is greater than \$1000 or otherwise guilty of a misdemeanor if that person, in the course of buying and selling of a forest product, as defined under RSA 227-G:4, VII:

- Uses or posess for use a false weight or measure, or any other device for falsely determining or recording any quality or quantity as provided under RSA 438; or
- Sells, offers, or exposes for sale or delivers less than the represented quantity of any commodity or service; or
- Takes or attempts to take more than the represented quantity of any commodity or service when, as buyer, the person furnishes the weight or measure; or
- Sells, offers, or exposes for sale adulterated or mislabeled commodities; or
- Does not remunerate the owner of the timber for the value of the forest products pursuant to a written contract; or
- Does not furnish the owner, upon written request, with all scale slips to verify the amount of the forest products removed from the owner's property. The scale slip must contain the species board footage of each log (or tonnage or cordage if not sold per thousand board feet); gross scale, defect, net scale, date wood was measured and name of scaler.

Do you need more information on:

- Log scaling or forest product pricing? Please contact UNH Cooperative Extension, Forest Industry Specialist, (603) 862-2647.
- Deceptive forestry business practices? Please contact the Division of Forests and Lands at (603) 271-2217