



## Commercial Firewood Sales

VicForests manages the sale of commercial firewood from State forests in Victoria. In the west of the State wood is sold through a Forest Produce Licence (FPL). In the east the same wood may be sold either through an FPL or a sales agreement with VicForests.

**Commercial firewood** is any firewood from State forests that is bought through VicForests for re-sale.

Anyone who wishes to collect firewood from State forests for commercial re-sale must first have a Forest Operators Licence (FOL).

No commercial firewood may be collected from domestic firewood collection areas administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

**Domestic firewood** is any firewood collected from designated areas of State forests for domestic use and may not be on-sold.

### Forest Operators Licence (FOL)/Timber Harvesting Operator Licence (THOL)

If you are going to collect commercial firewood from State forest yourself, then you must have a FOL/THOL.

FOLs are replacing THOLs. A FOL must be obtained through ForestWorks Industry Skills Council.

Information about this licensing system can be found on their website at the following link:

<https://fols.forestworks.com.au/Public/Public.aspx?id=Home>

To obtain a licence you must hold accreditations for the following competencies:

- FPICOR2203B - Follow environmental care procedures
- FPICOR2205B - Follow OHS policies and procedures

In addition you must hold have an accreditation for any unit of competency required for the activity you are undertaking. Such activities might include chainsaw operation (cross-cut), manual tree falling or machine operation. You must be able to provide evidence that you have these competencies to be able to obtain a FOL.

These competencies, and any associated training, are usually provided by Tafe.

A full licence lasts for three (3) years and costs \$150.

### Different ways to collect commercial firewood

There are a number of different way that you may obtain commercial firewood from VicForests.

1. VicForests may be able to deliver firewood to you, usually in amounts of 20 tonnes or more (truck loads) at a time. This will include associated harvest and haulage costs as well as a timber charge. A FOL would not be required in this case. Generally sales will be for a minimum of 250 tonnes. This method will require you to have a flat, hard yard and an appropriate wheel loader or excavator.
2. With an appropriately configured truck there may be opportunities to buy you wood “on-truck” at one of VicForests timber harvesting operations where you would be charged for harvest costs and the timber charge. A FOL would be required.
3. Another method is to collect firewood, from the ground, from an ex-timber harvesting coupe or possibly following road works. A FOL would be required.
4. Lastly, it may be possible to cut your own trees in a coupe allocated to you. A FOL with a falling accreditation would be required.

## Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

In all situations you will be expected to have a health and safety management system that is adequate to manage the hazards associated with the operation you are conducting. Option 4, above, will require a more comprehensive system than for the other options.

In all cases suitable evidence of your system and its operation must be provided before you will be able to obtain commercial firewood.

## Costs and other requirements

The timber charge or royalty rate varies, however an indication of prices is provided below (this is exclusive of any harvesting or delivery charges which may be applicable):

- Common species: \$11 to \$18 per cubic metre
- Durable species: \$18 to \$25 per cubic metre.

If you have never purchased commercial firewood from VicForests before, you may be issued with a probationary licence for a maximum period of 6 months.

Where you only wish to take quantities of firewood less than 100 cubic metres then you may be asked to pay for that amount up front, where there will be no refund for timber not taken.

Generally dry firewood will not be available from these operations; it will be sold green.

Options 3 and 4, above, require the availability of appropriately planned coupes which may be limited.

## Contacts

You can find further information of VicForests website at:

<http://www.vicforests.com.au/community-forestry>

Otherwise you can send an email to [community.forestry@vicforests.com.au](mailto:community.forestry@vicforests.com.au)

or call VicForests on 9608 9500

For domestic firewood please go to DELWP's website:

<http://delwp.vic.gov.au/parks-forests-and-crown-land/firewood>

or call 136 186.

