Lee Inspection & Consulting Services, Inc.

Board Feet Calculations

Lumber is bought and sold using nominal (unfinished) dimensions. There are two formulas that are used in the WPM program. An example of each formula is shown below:

1. All dimensions are recorded in inches

$$\frac{\text{height x width x length}}{144} = \text{Board feet (bf)}$$

        Example: 2" x 4" x 96" board $\frac{2x4x96}{144} = 5.33\text{bf}$

2. Dimensions with length recorded in feet

$$\frac{\text{height x width x length}}{12} = \text{Board feet (bf)}$$

        Example: 2" x 4" x 8 board $\frac{2x4x8}{12} = 5.33\text{bf}$

<u>Calculating BF in a typical 48 X 48 pallet which has:</u>

    (4) 1" x 6" x 48" boards $\frac{1x6x48}{144} = 2\text{bf}$ x 4 =   8bf

    (5) 1" x 4" x 48" boards $\frac{1x4x48}{144} = 1.33\text{bf}$ x 5 = 6.6bf

    (3) 2" x 4" x 48" stringers $\frac{2x4x48}{144} = 2.66$ bf x 3 = 7.99bf

            This pallet has a total bf of: 22.66bf