



Log and Fiber Management System

OVERVIEW

Released in 1995, Yard Boss is ALDATA Software's log and fiber management system. The system is designed to meet the unique fiber accounting and inventory management needs of the forest industry. The powerful system automates and streamlines timberlands accounting, contract and inventory management processes. ALDATA is confident that Yard Boss is one of the most powerful and flexible log and fiber management systems available on the market.

Contract management and paying the vendors involved in getting fiber from the forest to the mill is a complicated part of the forest industry. Yard Boss modernizes and streamlines timberlands accounting. The system has a central database where all contract information, and their individual terms, are stored. When wood is delivered, at a click of a button, all vendors associated are paid. The system also automatically records the fiber your company sells and trades. Accounting records in the database are easily integrated with enterprise and company accounting systems.

Yard Boss tracks and monitors your inventory and provides valuable information to assist you with inventory management. The system tracks all types of fiber (logs, chips, sawdust) and fiber attributes such as species, grade and dimension. A forest company can use the system to track and monitor its inventory. At any given time, the system can report on the volume, value, type and attributes of fiber in your wood yard. A common use of the inventory management feature in Yard Boss is to determine if fiber should be consumed by the company's mill or if it is a more profitable venture to trade its fiber. Ideally, a company would use Yard Boss to help match production needs with harvesting activities.

FEATURES

Accuracy and Integrity

In the past, woodland accounting systems have had difficulty ensuring accuracy and integrity of data. Less modern woodland accounting systems relied upon extensive manual labour for vendor payments and to make necessary adjustments to changing contract terms, therefore providing ample opportunity for error. Yard Boss improves the accuracy and integrity of data through a rigorous system set-up, which inputs vendor contracts and their terms into the system. However, once vendor contracts are in the system, payments are automatic.

Yard Boss was developed to ensure data accuracy and integrity. A feature of the system is an audit trail that provides a record of changes made and by who. Once payment data are approved, they are secured and cannot be changed. Password protection ensures security because personnel can only access functions for which they are approved.

Integration

Yard Boss integrates with modern technologies and software systems. Yard Boss can be configured to export data to your accounting and enterprise systems. Yard Boss can also be configured to accept data from a weigh scale, handhelds and other data entry devices.



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Flexible Configuration

Similar to other Boss Line products, Yard Boss is flexible and can be configured to match the business rules of your forest company. ALDATA works closely with you, the client, to understand how its business operates, particularly the structure of vendor contracts. Vendor contracts determine how the system is set-up and drives Yard Boss' functions.

Yard Boss accommodates contracts that are vendor or geography-based, or a combination of both. A vendor-based contract is one that is between your company and a contractor. A geography-based contract is one that obtains fiber from a specific geographic location.

The screenshot shows a configuration window with the following fields:

- Contract Code: B100A12501MALLY10023-10A
- Commodity: ALL
- Sort: ALL
- Log Type: ALL
- Status: ALL
- Species: ALL
- Distance Hauled: ALL
- Machine Code: ALL
- Activity: LOADING
- Vendor: Billy Jack Loaders Express
- Expiry Date: 1/1/2002
- Active?:
- Pay Basis: TONNE
- Rate Sheet: [Empty]
- Apply GST?:
- Bonus/Penalty Schedule: NONE
- Bonus Expense A/C: NONE
- Bonus Credit A/C: NONE
- Payment Schedule: WEEKLY
- Pay Base Minimum?:
- Expense A/C: Pub Chips - Trucking
- Credit A/C: NONE
- Source Yard: ALL
- Destination: MCKENZ
- Arrival Yard: ALL
- Basic Truck Type: ALL
- Truck Configuration: ALL
- Truck Route: ALL
- Description: N/A
- Surcharge Contract?:
- Base Pay Contract: [Empty]

You define how vendor contracts are to be paid. This information drives the system and is used to calculate payments.

In forestry, individual contract terms vary. For each contract, the system accommodates up to 25 different subcontractors and their contract terms and pay schedules. Payment can be based on weight, species, sort, grade or a combination of criteria. For example, a driver may be paid based on weight of a load whereas a loader may be paid based on a combination of grade and weight. The system also manages the particulars of log haul contracts such as truck configurations and hauling routes. ALDATA Software is confident that the system can handle the majority of contract scenarios. Yard Boss' flexible configuration does not limit the way your company can obtain fiber.

Additional Features

- The software program has a chips module that accommodates chip quality programs. It tracks quality parameters on sample loads of wood chips and applies bonuses and penalties where applicable.
- The software can function at one mill site or at numerous mill sites and weigh scale locations. The robust database accommodates millions of data transactions.
- Yard Boss generates real-time reports. An open database allows users to access data to create reports using a variety of ODBC compliant tools including MS Access, MS Excel and Crystal Reports.
- The system can operate as a stand-alone or integrate with other software.
- The system has a Windows interface and is easy to use.

Technical Specifications

Yard Boss is developed in MS Visual Basic 6.0. Its secure, relational database is built in MS SQL Server 7 and Oracle. It is a windows program.