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# Forest Technologist Transitional Policy

Passed January 2005

**POLICY**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Overview

The *Foresters Act* regulates the practice of professional forestry in British Columbia. Since its proclamation in 1947, the *Foresters Act* has defined the practice of professional forestry, reserved that practice to Registered Professional Foresters, and established a regulatory body (the Association of BC Forest Professionals) to govern the profession. On June 20, 2003, this *Foresters Act* was repealed and replaced with a new *Foresters Act*, which, for the first time recognizes forest technologists as forest professionals. Among the things included in the *Foresters Act* are provisions that:

- reserve the title “Registered Forest Technologist” and the designation “RFT” to members of the association; and
- recognize practice rights for Registered Forest Technologists.

As of **December 1, 2005** any person who engages in activities defined as forest technology practice under the *Foresters Act* and association bylaws and policies must either be a registered member of the association or must practise under the direct supervision of a registered member.

The *Foresters Act* provides a grace period until December 1, 2005 for forest technologists to transition into association membership. This policy describes the transition provisions available. It applies to you if you are currently working as a forest technologist in British Columbia or are planning to work as a forest technologist in British Columbia.

## 1.2. Additional Documents

This policy must be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- RFT Application Packages.
- *Enrolment Policy*\* (formerly the *Enrolment, Registration and Membership Policy*).
- *Articling Policy*\* (formerly *Sponsoring Forester Policy*, applicable to enrolled members).
- *Membership Policy*\* (if you are currently an enrolled member or conditionally registered and want to find out about taking a leave of absence or resigning).
- *Foresters Act*.
- Association bylaws, particularly Bylaw 5 (member categories), Bylaw 6 (member rights and obligations), Bylaw 11 (code of ethics), and Bylaw 12 (practice standards).
- *Guidelines on Scope of Practice for Registered Forest Technologists*.

\*The policies marked with an asterisk were under development at the time this policy was published.

You can access these and other documents referred to in this policy from our web site: [www.abcfp.ca](http://www.abcfp.ca)

## 1.3. Plain Language

We have tried to write this policy using plain and straightforward language. There are times that we use words or phrases that have special meanings or significance. These are defined in the definition section of the *Enrolment Policy*.

## 1.4. Revocation and Application

This policy repeals and replaces all other policies or statements made in relation to forest technologist transition provisions. If you become a member of the ABCFP under any of the provisions of this policy, you are still subject to all other association bylaws and policies, including those provisions of the *Enrolment Policy* and the *Membership Policy* not otherwise altered by this policy.

## 2. Routes of Entry for Technologists

### 2.1. Overview

There are two transitional routes of entry available to technologists:

1. **Transitional provisions for Trainee Forest Technologists** described in Section 3. This route may be available to you if you are a recent graduate with a recognized forestry diploma.
2. **Conditional registration as a Registered Forest Technologist** under transitional terms and conditions described in Section 4. This route may be available to you if you entered into practice before December 1, 2003 and you have been practising as a technologist for a number of years.

The various options available under each route and the expiry dates for each of the options are described in the relevant sections that follow.

Over time, the options for conditional registration will be closed and only one route to registration will be available. That route is described in detail in the *Enrolment Policy*, but essentially will require that you:

- have a recognized diploma (as defined in the *Enrolment Policy*);
- enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist;
- complete at least 24 months of work experience under the guidance of a sponsor **AFTER** you enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist; and
- write and pass the full RFT registration examination.

This is also the route that would be available to you if you do not meet the requirements of any of the transitional provisions outlined in this policy.

### 2.2. Application Packages and Deadlines

Described below are a number of different application options. Each option has deadlines which are strictly enforced and to which you must pay particular attention. Application packages containing necessary forms and instructions are available on our web site.

We will only accept your application if it is completely filled out and error free, otherwise it will be returned to you. This can have serious consequences, particularly if your initial application is submitted close to a deadline which then cannot be met if you are required to resubmit your application.

**You have the onus to ensure that your application is received on time, is complete and is free of errors.**

### 2.3. Work Experience

The topic of work experience comes up in almost all parts of this policy. Any reference to work experience means work experience relevant to forest technology practice acceptable to the board of examiners and, with the exception of work experience described under Section 4.1. below, means work experience gained after you received your diploma. The board of examiners will look at the quantity, quality and breadth of your work experience when making a decision about whether your work experience qualifies.

At a minimum, to be relevant, work experience must include the type of work described in the *Guidelines on Scope of Practice for Registered Forest Technologists*, available on our web site.

### 2.4. Recognized Diplomas

The topic of recognized diplomas also comes up in almost all parts of this policy. A list of recognized forest technologist diplomas is available on our web site.

### 3. Transitional Provisions for Trainee Forest Technologists

Expires November 30, 2005

If you have a recognized diploma and have less than 24 months of work experience as a forest technologist, but have not yet enrolled as a Trainee Forest Technologist, there are incentives to do so before December 1, 2005. In addition to fee considerations, even though you are not yet enrolled, your work experience may be credited towards the 24 month post-enrolment work experience requirement for Trainee Forest Technologists.

Until November 30, 2005, you may qualify for this credit if you meet the conditions set out below.

**Condition 1:**

You meet all other eligibility requirements for enrolment as a Trainee Forest Technologist.

**Condition 2:**

To be credited towards your post-enrolment work experience, any pre-enrolment work experience must be relevant to forest technology practice.

**Condition 3:**

You complete the remainder of your articling period, gaining work experience under the guidance of a sponsor (either an RPF or an RFT).

**Condition 4:**

You remain a member in good standing throughout your enrolment period. If you cease to be an enrolled member for any reason during this transition period and wish to re-apply, you will not be able to take advantage of the work experience credit available under this transitional provision. This means that you would have to re-apply as a Trainee Forest Technologist and would have to complete at least 24 months of post-enrolment work experience under the guidance of a sponsor during your articling period.

We recognize that there may be rare cases where extra-ordinary factors outside your control make complying with this condition impossible. In these situations, you may apply in writing to the board of examiners for a variance. The variance will only be granted if you can prove your case to the board of examiners. The board's decision is final.

**Condition 5:**

You meet all other requirements for enrolment and registration (including RFT registration examination requirements) outlined in the *Enrolment Policy* and any and all other related policies not specifically modified by this policy.

## 4. Conditional Registration as a Registered Forest Technologist

There are two options for transitioning into association membership by conditional registration as a Registered Forest Technologist, depending on whether you have a recognized diploma or not. Each option is strictly time limited.

### 4.1. Registering With an Unrecognized Diploma or Without a Diploma

**Expires November 30, 2005**

From December 1, 2005 onward, the only way you will be eligible to either enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist or conditionally register as a Registered Forest Technologist is to have a recognized diploma. If you have been practising as a forest technologist in British Columbia for a number of years but you do not have a recognized diploma, or do not have a diploma at all, you may still be able to apply for conditional registration as a Registered Forest Technologist under certain strict “grandparenting” terms and conditions.

This option is only available to you till November 30, 2005 under the following conditions.

#### **Condition 1:**

You may not already be a registered or enrolled member of the association or otherwise be eligible to enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist.

#### **Condition 2:**

You must be presently employed in British Columbia at the technologist level and have at least five (5) years of continuous and progressive work experience in forest technology within British Columbia as at the date of your application for membership.

#### **Condition 3:**

You must supply at least three (3) references from a registered member of the ABCFP with direct knowledge of, and who can attest to, your qualifying work experience.

We recognize that there may be rare cases where you may not be able to get all three references from a registered ABCFP member. If this is the case, you will have to make a special written application to the board of examiners for permission to have this stipulation varied. If the board of examiners is satisfied that there are valid reasons for varying this condition, it may allow up to two (2) references from credible and accountable individuals who are not ABCFP members.

#### **Condition 4:**

You must supply at least two (2) additional character references from a registered member of either the ABCFP; the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia; the College of Applied Biology - British Columbia; the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists; or a person with an Applied Science Technologist designation from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia.

#### **Condition 5:**

You write the RFT registration examination by no later than October 2006.

- If you have at least of five (5) years of continuous and progressive work experience in forest technology within British Columbia as at the date of your application for membership, the last four (4) years of which must be at the technologist level, you must write Part A (professionalism and regulation of the profession) and Part B (forest technologist practice) of the RFT registration examination.
- If you have at least ten (10) years of continuous and progressive work experience in forest technology within British Columbia as at the date of your application for membership, the last seven (7) years of which must be at the technologist level you must write Part A of the RFT registration examination dealing with professionalism and regulation of the profession.

#### **Condition 6:**

If you do not pass the RFT registration examination in accordance with the exam writing and re-writing provisions contained in the *Enrolment Policy* (available online) you will:

- lose your membership;
- not be able to apply for membership again for five (5) years from the date you lost your membership;
- not be able to take advantage of any of the transitional provisions in this policy; and
- have to obtain a recognized diploma, enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist, complete at least 24 months of post-enrolment work experience under the guidance of a sponsor, and write the full RFT registration examination.

**Condition 7:**

If conditionally registered under this part of the policy, you must remain an active registered member of the ABCFP in good standing throughout the period from application to passing the RFT registration examination and moving from the conditional to permanent register.

If you do not fulfill this requirement, your conditional registration will be cancelled and you will not be eligible for special consideration under these grandparenting provisions if and when you apply again for membership. This means that if you want to practice as an RFT again in the future, you could only do so by obtaining a recognized diploma, applying for enrolment as a Trainee Forest Technologist, completing a least 24 months of work experience under the guidance of a sponsor and then writing the full RFT registration examination.

We recognize that there may be rare cases where extra-ordinary factors outside your control make complying with this condition impossible. In these situations, you may apply in writing to the board of examiners for a variance. The variance will only be granted if you can prove your case to the board of examiners. The board's decision is final.

## 4.2. Registering With a Recognized Diploma

Two options for conditional registration as a Registered Forest Technologist are available to you if you have a recognized diploma. The first option is available now until November 30, 2005. The second option is available between December 1, 2005 and November 30, 2008.

### 4.2.1. Applying for Conditional Registration as an RFT Now

**Expires November 30, 2005**

This option is only available until November 30, 2005. You may qualify if you meet the following conditions.

**Condition 1:**

You have a recognized diploma, conferred on or before December 1, 2003.

**Condition 2:**

You entered into practice on or before December 1, 2003.

**Condition 3:**

You have at least 24 months of relevant work experience gained after you received your diploma.

**Condition 4:**

You provide at least two (2) character references from a registered member of either the ABCFP; the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia; the College of Applied Biology - British Columbia; the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists; or a person with an Applied Science Technologist designation from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia.

**Condition 5:**

You write the RFT Registration Examination no later than October, 2006.

Please refer to the *Enrolment Policy* for a more detailed discussion about the rules relating to exam writing.

**Condition 6:**

You will have to write both parts of the RFT Registration Examination unless you qualify, and apply for an exemption. To be eligible for the exemption and only have to write Part A of the RFT Registration Examination, dealing with professionalism and regulation of the profession, you must:

- Have at least 60 months of progressive work experience in forest technology within British Columbia, as of the date you apply to write the RFT registration examination;

- Have at least 36 months of that work experience at the technologist level;
- Provide at least three (3) references from registered ABCFP members with direct knowledge of and who can attest to your qualifying work experience.

Your application for exemption from Part B of the exam, dealing with forest technologist practice, must be included in your membership application package.

#### **Condition 7:**

If you do not pass the RFT Registration Examination in accordance with the exam writing and re-writing provisions contained in the *Enrolment Policy* (available online) you will:

- lose your membership;
- not be able to apply for membership again for five (5) years from the date you lost your membership;
- not be able to take advantage of any of the transitional provisions in this policy; and
- have to enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist, complete at least 24 months of work experience under the guidance of a sponsor, and write the full RFT Registration Examination.

#### **Condition 8:**

If conditionally registered under this part of the policy, you must remain an active registered member of the ABCFP in good standing throughout the period from application to passing the RFT registration examination and moving from the conditional to permanent register.

If you do not fulfill this requirement, your conditional registration will be cancelled and you will not be eligible for special consideration under this policy if and when you apply again for membership. This means that if you were wanted to practice as an RFT again, you could only do so by, applying for enrolment as a Trainee Forest Technologist, completing at least 24 months of work experience under the guidance of a sponsor, and writing the full RFT registration examination.

There may be rare cases where extra-ordinary factors outside your control make complying with this condition impossible. In these situations, you may apply in writing to the board of examiners for a variance. The variance will only be granted if you can prove your case to the board of examiners. The board's decision is final.

## **4.2.2 Applying for Conditional Registration as an RFT**

**Available from December 1, 2005 to November 30, 2008.**

We recognize that since the *Foresters Act* provisions dealing with forest technologists only came into force June 20, 2003, career decisions you took before this time may have been very different from decisions you would have made had you known that forest technology practice would be regulated under the *Foresters Act*. We also recognize that while you may not need to be registered now, because you are currently working under the direct supervision of a registered ABCFP member, this may not always be the case. The following option for conditional registration as a Registered Forest Technologist is in place to allow you sufficient time to make career choices informed by the fact that forest technology practice is now regulated by the *Foresters Act*.

This option is available between December 1, 2005 and November 30, 2008. You may qualify if you meet the following conditions.

#### **Condition 1:**

You have a recognized diploma, conferred on or before December 1, 2003.

#### **Condition 2:**

You entered into practice on or before December 1, 2003.

#### **Condition 3:**

You provide at least two (2) character references from a registered member of either the ABCFP; the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia; the College of Applied Biology - British Columbia; the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists; or a person with an Applied Science Technologist designation from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia. These references are in addition to the work experience references provided under Condition 5 below.

#### **Condition 4:**

You have at least 60 months of progressive work experience in forest technology within British Columbia as at the date of your application for membership, the last 36 month of which must be at the technologist level.

#### **Condition 5:**

You provide at least three (3) references from registered ABCFP members with direct knowledge of and who can attest to your qualifying work experience.

**Condition 6:**

You write Part A of the RFT registration examination, dealing with professionalism and regulation of the profession, no later than the lesser of:

- eighteen months from the date your application was accepted, or
- the second sitting of the RFT registration examination from the date your application was accepted (exams are held the first Friday of October annually).

**Condition 7:**

If you do not pass the RFT registration examination in accordance with the exam writing and re-writing provisions contained in the *Enrolment Policy* (available online) you will:

- lose your membership
- not be able to apply for membership again for five (5) years from the date you lost your membership
- not be able to take advantage of any of the transitional provisions in this policy
- have to enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist, complete at least 24 months of work experience under the guidance of a sponsor, and write the full RFT registration examination.

**Condition 8:**

If conditionally registered under this part of the policy, you must remain an active Registered Forest Technologist in good standing throughout the period from application to passing the RFT registration examination and moving from the conditional to permanent register.

If you do not fulfill this requirement, your conditional registration will be cancelled and you will not be eligible for special consideration under this policy if and when you apply again for membership. This means that if you were wanted to practice as an RFT again, you could only do so by, applying for enrolment as a Trainee Forest Technologist, completing at least 24 months of work experience under the guidance of a sponsor, and writing the full RFT registration examination.

We recognize that there may be rare cases where extra-ordinary factors outside your control make complying with this condition impossible. In these situations, you may apply in writing to the board of examiners for a variance. The variance will only be granted if you can prove your case to the board of examiners. The board's decision is final.

**Questions?**

Questions should be referred to:

Registration Department  
Association of BC Forest Professionals  
1030-1188 West Georgia St  
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Tel: 604.687.8027 Fax: 604.687.3264  
E-mail: [admissions@abcfp.ca](mailto:admissions@abcfp.ca)  
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