
Forest Technologist Transitional Policy

Revised January 2008

Policy

Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
1.1 Overview	3
1.2 Additional Documents	3
1.3 Plain Language	4
1.4 Revocation and Application	4
2.0 Routes of Entry for Technologists	4
2.1 Overview	4
2.2 Application Packages and Deadlines	5
2.3 Work Experience	5
2.4 Recognized Diplomas	5
3.0 Transitional Provisions for Trainee Forest Technologists	5
4.0 Registered Forest Technologist Transition Policy (Revised January 2008)	6
4.1 Registering with a Recognized Diploma and having Recognized Experience	6
4.2 Graduates with a Recognized Diploma Granted after December 1, 2003	8
4.3 Registering without a Diploma	8
4.4 Registering with an Unrecognized Diploma	10

1.0 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 On June 20, 2003, this *Foresters Act* was repealed and replaced with a new *Foresters Act*, which, for the first time, recognizes forest technologists as forest professionals. Provisions in the *Foresters Act* include:

- reserving the title ‘Registered Forest Technologist’ and the designation ‘RFT’ to members of the association, and
- recognizing 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.

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 policy marked with an asterisk was under development at the time this policy was published. You can access it and other documents referred to in this policy from our website: www.abcfp.ca.

1.3 Plain Language

We have tried to write this policy using plain and straightforward language. There are times when 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.

2.0 Routes of Entry for Technologists

2.1 Overview

There are two routes of entry available to technologists:

1. **Regular provisions for Trainee Forest Technologists** described in Section 4.2. 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, have been practising as a technologist for a number of years and you apply for registration with the ABCFP by November 30, 2008.

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 website.

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.

The onus is on you 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 4.3. 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 website.

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 website.

3.0 Transitional Provisions for Trainee Forest Technologists

The transition policy has been revised as of January 2008. See Section 4 of this policy.

4.0 Registered Forest Technologist Transition Policy (Revised January 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. There are now options for entering the Association of BC Forest Professionals as a Registered Forest Technologist that allow you sufficient time to make career choices informed by the fact that forest technology practice is now regulated by the *Foresters Act*. You may qualify if you meet certain conditions.

4.1 Registering with a Recognized Diploma and having Recognized Experience

Two paths for registration as a Registered Forest Technologist are available to you if you have a recognized diploma. If you have five (5) years of recognized experience and your diploma was granted before December 1, 2003, you can apply under section 4.1. Recent graduates must apply under section 4.2 (the regular approval process for diplomas granted after 2003).

You may qualify under section 4.1 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 before December 1, 2003 and 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 months of which must be at the technologist level.

Condition 3:

You make application to enrol with the ABCFP by November 30, 2008.

Condition 4:

You will complete a membership application package that includes:

- at least two (2) character references from registered members 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.

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

Condition 5:

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

- October 2009 (exams are held the first Friday of October annually); or
- October 2008 if:
 - i. your membership application is received by the ABCFP on or before June 30, 2008;
 - ii. your application is accepted; and
 - iii. your application to write the exam is received by the ABCFP by August 15, 2008.

Condition 6:

If you do not pass the RFT registration examination in accordance with the exam writing and rewriting 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.

4.2 Graduates with a Recognized Diploma Granted after December 1, 2003 (RFT entry route (TFT) as outlined in the *Enrollment Policy*)

Graduates with less than five (5) years experience and a recognized diploma will continue to become registered within our regular RFT registration processes described in our registration bylaws and policies.

4.3 Registering without a Diploma

From January 1, 2008 until November 30, 2008, you may be able to apply for conditional registration as a Registered Forest Technologist under certain strict “grandfathering” terms and conditions if you have been practising as a forest technologist in British Columbia for a minimum of five (5) years but you do not have a diploma. This option is only available to you if you register by November 30, 2008 and under the following conditions.

Condition 1:

Except under exceptional circumstances, you may not already be a registered or enrolled member of the association or otherwise be eligible to enrol as a Trainee Forest Technologist. Exceptions to this condition will be granted on a case by case basis by the registrar. Please contact the registration department at 604.687.8027 if you think you qualify for an exception.

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 will complete a membership application package that includes:

- at least three (3) references from registered members of the ABCFP with direct knowledge of you, 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 registered ABCFP members. 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.
- at least two (2) additional character references from registered members 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 4:

You write the RFT registration examination by October 2009 or earlier if you qualify:

- 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 both 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 5:

If you do not pass the RFT registration examination in accordance with the exam writing and rewriting 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 6:

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 conditional to permanent registration. 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 practise 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 at 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 extraordinary 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.

4.4 Registering with an Unrecognized Diploma

If you have more than five (5) years experience, then follow section 4.3 above.

If you have less than five (5) years experience, then you have an opportunity to have your unrecognized diploma and experience assessed for suitability for full registration.

- You will have to submit a membership application with your unrecognized diploma credentials and work experience for assessment.
- If your diploma and competencies are recognized then you move into the regular RFT registration process described in section 4.2.
- If your diploma and competencies are not recognized the assessment process will identify shortcomings that you will need to address.

Questions?

Questions should be referred to:

Registration Department

Association of BC Forest Professionals

330 - 321 Water Street

Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8

Tel: 604.687.8027 Fax: 604.687.3264

E-mail: admissions@abcfp.ca

Website: www.abcfp.ca