



Association of Saskatchewan
FORESTRY PROFESSIONALS

Continuing Competence Program

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www.asfp.ca

On What it Means to be a Registered Forestry Professional in Saskatchewan

When unregistered forest practitioners are asked to consider membership in the Association, many often ask “what’s in it for me?”. The short answer is credibility.

By becoming a registered forestry professional, you are demonstrating accountability. Accountability for your actions, and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan. By becoming a member you are also demonstrating ethical behaviour. All members of the association are required to act in accordance with the code of ethics. Finally, by becoming a member you are demonstrating competence. All members must meet minimum academic and experiential requirements to become registered. In addition, all members must maintain their competence by engaging in continuing education.

The sustainability of our forests and health of our environment depend upon competent, ethical, and accountable forestry professionals. To not be willing to be held to these standards of practice may indicate otherwise.

*~ Michael S. McLaughlan, R.P.F.
Growing the Profession: The 2007 President’s Report, April 2007*

ASFP: Continuing Competence Program

OUR BELIEF - "Continuing Forestry Education is a basis for competent forestry practice. Those successful in growing and developing knowledge will also reflect that knowledge in practice."

Professional development is an activity which is expected of all professionals. It is usually inherent in the professional legislation for self-governing professions and is of increasing importance to all foresters and forest technologists. Rapid technological change, the social significance of forest resources, increased public awareness, higher environmental standards, greater professional demands and the ever-changing competencies required, dictate continuous learning and development if individuals and the profession are to better serve society.

The ASFP Continuing Competency program is mandatory for all members. Its goal is to:

- maintain relevancy of knowledge,
- advance knowledge and skills,
- encourage learning of new techniques,
- encourage broadening of knowledge in related areas,
- increase awareness of new developments and current issues,
- assist members in reviewing their knowledge of current literature and keep abreast of new opportunities to upgrade knowledge, and
- stimulate individual self-assessment by providing standards for achievement.

To meet the ASFP CE requirements, members must:

- Complete 150 contact hours of continuing competency activities and professional development during a three-year period.
- Distribute the hours appropriately within accepted categories of participation. A minimum of 50 hours over the three year period must be in Category 1.
- Maintain a "*Continuing Competency Tracking Form*" as work is completed (Appendix 1)

All members must keep their tracking form up-to-date. An example of the minimum information to be maintained can be found in Appendix 1.

To help ensure compliance with this program, all members will be required on a yearly basis to report total number of Continuing Competency Credits accumulated during the previous year.

Each year a continuing competency audit will be conducted of a randomly selected 5% sample of the ASFP membership to ensure that our membership is meeting the

program requirements. Continuing competency activities and professional development will be evaluated over a rolling three-year period.

Failure to report annually or to provide a continuing competence tracking form for audit purposes may result in discipline up to and including cancellation of membership in the Association

Members not meeting the program requirements as determined by the audit shall submit a training plan that identifies how shortfalls will be met over the next 12 months. Training and continuing education required to meet shortfalls during the additional 12 month period will not count toward the next three-year period.

All 150 contact hours may be obtained in Category 1, but participants are encouraged to distribute their activities.

Continuing competency activities for the three (3) years previous to membership are used towards meeting the program objectives. No credit will be given for course work taken or presented as part of a formal degree program which is required to obtain membership in the association. However, credits for graduate or post-graduate studies are recognized.

ASFP Continuing Competency Categories

Category 1 - Formal Education and Training 50 hours MINIMUM

This category encompasses organized course work or activities in forestry or forestry related subject matters such as silviculture, mensuration, forest pest management, habitat management, urban forestry, or forest policy. Included are seminars, short courses, conferences, and workshops conducted or sponsored by public or private organizations, as well as technical sessions of the ASFP, the Canadian Institute of Forestry or other forestry profession associations or societies. Examples include conferences, workshops, and government-industry training sessions. Also included is organized course work or activities not specifically related to forestry but which are professionally enriching or directly benefit the individual in his or her present position. Examples include course work in computer science, managerial skills, public speaking and other areas.

Credit accrues at the rate of one (1) hour for each hour of actual contact. Credit also accrues at the rate of one (1) hour for each hour of actual contact for field session, provided that travel time is not included. In general, if the member is receiving new information to apply in the conduct of their profession, it will usually be considered as Category 1 formal education and training.

Members are expected to obtain course outlines or program agendas for activities not previously approved by the ASFP or another RPF/RPFT association. To assist members in identifying learning opportunities, upcoming continuing education activities may be listed on the ASFP website.

Category 2 - Self-Directed Reading and Forestry Profession Business Meetings 100 hours MAXIMUM

This category includes attendance at business meetings of the ASFP or related organizations such as the Canadian Institute of Forestry or other RPF/RPFT associations, provincial forestry associations, conservation associations or forestry oriented trade associations. Examples include ASFP, Canadian Institute of Forestry or other professional meetings. Credit accrues at the rate of one hour for each hour of actual contact. Technical sessions of these organizations would qualify in Category 1, as would electronic/distance audio-visual presentations.

Reading of publications on technical forestry subjects also qualifies in Category 2. Only individual-held subscriptions constitute demonstrated participation in journal readings. Maximum credit hours per issue received and read vary by publication. Appendix 2 identifies various individual journal credit hours. For credit associated with journals not listed, please submit the journal information to the ASFP for evaluation. For credit associated with non-subscription technical publications (e.g., FERIC), credit accrues at a rate of 0.5 hours for each publication read. Members are required to document the specific technical publications read.

Category 3 - Professional Practice and Technology Transfer 100 hours MAXIMUM

This category includes the development, preparation, and presentation of forestry material to public, private, or professional audiences. Credit accrues at the rate of five (5) contact hours for each hour of presentation. Credit is only provided for the first offering of the presentation.

This category also includes the preparation, writing and publication of forestry or forestry-related subject matter. Credit for publications is given at the rate of 15 hours for each publication requiring technical review or five (5) hours for an article of substantial nature appearing in a magazine, newspaper or similar publication.

Holding an elected or appointed office or an active committee assignment in the ASFP or Canadian Institute of Forestry or legislated professional organizations yields 12 credit hours per year for holding office or chairing a committee. Six (6) credit hours per year are awarded for active committee membership and participation.

Maintaining active employment in the professional practice of forestry exposes practitioners to new ideas through application and experience accrual. Maintenance of

ones professional practice accrues credit in this category at a rate of one (1) hour for each month that the individual maintains their practice.

Appendix 2.

Category 2 credit hours (per issue) associated with various journals

½ Credit hour	1 Credit hour	2 Credit hours
The Edge. Forest Business	Agroforestry Systems	Forestry Chronicle
Mid-Canada Forestry Mining	Sawmill and Woodlot	Canadian Journal of Forest Research
BC Forest Professional	Wood Design and Building	Northern Journal of Applied Forestry
Blue Jay		Ecosystems
Pulp and Paper	Fire Management Today	Forest Science
Canadian Silviculture	Journal of Wildlife Management	Ecological Monographs
Canadian Forest Industries	Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment	Ecology
FERIC publications		Journal of Forestry
		Ecological Applications
		Ecoscience
		Environmental Reviews
		Forest Ecology and Management
		Forest Policy and Economics
		Forest Products Journal
		Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research