

# Forest Safety news

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## SAFE Companies

### New certification guidelines roll out

The New Year will bring into effect new guidelines that SAFE Companies must meet in order to retain their certification.

While the policy fully rolls out January 1, 2011, the guidelines are already in effect for companies registered after October 7, 2010.

Highlights of the most notable changes are provided on page 2. However, representatives from companies registered or certified before October 7, 2010 should also read the full set of guidelines to ensure they are familiar with any pertinent details.

“In a nutshell, the biggest change is that most companies will have a new annual submission date,” says Steve Chaplin, Director, Safety Services. “The guidelines also provide some provisions and tools for the Council to take

action in cases where companies are not meeting the spirit and intent of maintaining a safety management system in their operations, including up to and removing a company’s certification. Our intent, though, is to always work with companies to develop a plan to address any deficiencies.”

The new guidelines are posted on the Council’s home page ([www.bcforestsafesafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org)). As well, a copy of the guidelines has been sent to all SAFE Companies via e-mail, fax or mail.

The new guidelines give the Council the ability to ensure that all SAFE Companies meet certain standards. This is similar to other professional associations that have requirements for members to maintain their designations. The guidelines also provide more transparency and consistency, and better protect the integrity of the SAFE Companies program — something key to its success and the more than 2,700 companies now SAFE certified.

[SEE HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW GUIDELINES, PAGE 2 >](#)

## CEO's message

### An injury-free track record will say it all



REYNOLD HERT

While the forest industry made strong progress in injury reduction per 100-person years worked from 2005-09, early results are showing we held that improvement in 2010 but did not further reduce injury rates. We are at a challenging point in continuing to improve the industry and reduce injuries.

In some ways, it feels like we have solved the big problem. The forest industry is no longer in the news for its poor safety track record, the number of fatalities is below 10 two years in a row (at the time of writing), and we have some industry-wide systems in place, such as SAFE certification.

On the other hand, our lost time and serious injury rates are still twice as high as the rest of the industry

[SEE GOING HOME INJURY-FREE, P4 >](#)



Everyone at the BC Forest Safety Council wishes you and yours a very safe and happy holiday season!



**BC Forest Safety Council**  
*Unsafe is Unacceptable*

*Forest Safety News* is published by the BC Forest Safety Council to inform members and others about workplace health-and-safety developments affecting the forest industry.

Have a story or comments? Contact us at [news@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:news@bcforestsafesafe.org)

## Highlights of new guidelines

< CONTINUED FROM NEW CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES, PAGE 1

The following are the main highlights of the new certification guidelines that are most likely to impact SAFE Companies' operations:

- » Audits are now due on your certification anniversary date or June 30 of that year, whichever is later. For example, if your certification anniversary date is

### Year-end deadline nears for audits



December 31 is the deadline for all maintenance audits for companies SAFE certified in 2008 or 2009. If your company falls in this category, a maintenance audit must be submitted to keep your certification current and be eligible for the annual COR rebate.

This is the last year that maintenance audits can be submitted by year-end. The new guidelines stipulate that as of January 1, 2011, audits are now due on your certification anniversary date or June 30, whichever is later. This will smooth the workload and enable quicker turnaround times for the audits. Currently, with thousands of maintenance audits submitted during a three-week window at year end, a backlog is created.

Certification expires in 2010 for all companies SAFE certified in 2007, which means a new certification audit must be done to re-certify. For companies that added or changed a WorkSafeBC classification unit, a certification audit is required instead of a maintenance audit.

Ensuring all necessary documents are contained in submissions avoids delays in receiving or maintaining SAFE certification. Audits, support forms and tutorials can be found at [www.bcforestsafe.org/SAFE\\_Companies\\_Updates](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/SAFE_Companies_Updates).

For more information, contact Martin Ridgway, Senior Safety Advisor, at 1-877-741-1060 or [ridgway@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:ridgway@bcforestsafe.org).

March 15, your audit is due on March 15 and no later than June 30 of that year. However, if your certification anniversary date is October 15, your audit is due by October 15 of that year.

- » Audits need to be spaced more than six months apart and only one audit per year is needed.
- » False or misleading information may result in actions up to and including removing a company's certification.
- » If a company increases in size, it must submit a new audit for the appropriate size within 90 days.

If your company has not received a copy of the guidelines, or if you need more information, please contact 1-877-741-1060.

## No annual fees for SAFE Companies in 2011

There's good news for SAFE Companies in 2011 — once again, no annual fee will be charged for certification.

"Originally, the intent was that once the initial registration fee was paid for a SAFE Company certification, there would be an annual fee to cover ongoing costs," says Business Manager, Rob Moonen. "This annual fee was meant to replace a larger re-certification fee every three years. But due to the difficult economic conditions of the industry, the Council has had the annual fee waived the past few years."

Now the Board of Directors has again decided to not have an annual fee for 2011 since the Council has been working to reduce costs of operations and the industry is still in challenging times.

In the fall of 2011, the Forest Safety Council will conduct its annual review of fee structures, then communicate the decision with companies for 2012 and beyond.

Current fees for SAFE certification for three years are as follows. These include HST:

» Individual Owner Operator (IOO)	\$140
.....	
» Independent Small Company (ISEBASE)	\$336
.....	
» Small Company (SEBASE)	\$672
.....	
» Large Employer (BASE)	\$1344



## Training

### Full falling supervisor program rolled out



FALLING SUPERVISOR/BULLBUCKER JEFF MCKENZIE POINTS OUT HAZARDS DURING THE INITIAL WALK-THROUGH OF A CUT-BLOCK IN GOLD RIVER.

After months of effort, it's official — the Falling Supervisor Training Standard and Certification program has evolved from being a pilot project to a full certification program for faller supervisor/bullbucker certification training and standards. Getting certified is voluntary, but it gives an advantage: people hiring a company with certified faller supervisors will know that those supervisors meet WorkSafeBC's qualification requirements.

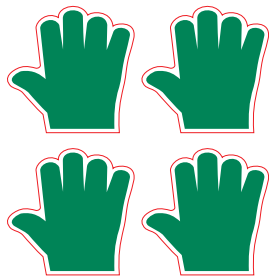
"This program is really going to improve safety on falling worksites," says Bill Bolton, who manages faller programs for the Council. "It's been a very collaborative process to get to this point — including the efforts of 14 active falling supervisors from around the province, who volunteered their time to plan out the certification process — which means a lot of good, solid thinking and practical experience has gone into it."

For more information about the program, contact Bill Bolton at [Bolton@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto: Bolton@bcforestsafesafe.org) or go to [www.bcforestsafesafe.org/training/supervisors/bullbuckers.html](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/training/supervisors/bullbuckers.html).

## Upcoming safety training for forestry workers

Course	Location	Dates	Contact
Small Employer OH&S Individual Owner Operator	Kamloops (Plaza Heritage Hotel)	January 6-7 January 8	For more information, contact Gary Banys or Kelly Milholm at the Council office toll free at 1-877-741-1060. Enrollment forms and other details of scheduled courses can also be found on our website training calendar: <a href="http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/fscapps/calendar/calendar.php">www.bcforestsafesafe.org/fscapps/calendar/calendar.php</a>
Small Employer OH&S Individual Owner Operator	Nanaimo (Days Inn Harbourview)	January 13-14 January 15	
Small Employer OH&S Individual Owner Operator	Prince George (Days Inn downtown)	January 13-14 January 15	
Basic Incident Investigation Basic Incident Investigation	Kamloops (Plaza Heritage Hotel) Nanaimo (Days Inn Harbourview)	January 15 February 12	
Small Employer OH&S Individual Owner Operator	Langley (Denny's at the Sandman Hotel)	February 24-25 February 26	
Internal Auditor	Nanaimo (Days Inn Harbourview)	March 2-4	





## Stay alert for new Innovation Alerts

To help companies stay on top of the best of best practices in safety, the Council will be providing monthly Innovation Alerts starting in the New Year. It's all part of a new effort to encourage the forest industry to share their improvements with others and

to assist companies with becoming more innovative in integrating safety practices into their operations.

The first Innovation Alert, which will be e-mailed to companies and is posted at [www.bcforestsafe.org/greenhands.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/greenhands.html), highlights the "Green Hands for Green Hands" campaign.

"Green Hands for Green Hands" is widely known in the oil and gas and other industries as an effective way to help identify young, new and inexperienced workers on job

sites. Green stickers in the shape of hands are placed on hard hats to identify people who are new workers.

"This is an initiative that's designed to identify workers who may not have the experience to properly recognize hazards in their job," says Laura Maguire, the Training and Program Development Advisor for the Council.

"It allows their co-workers in close proximity to use extra caution or identify them for coaching or mentoring opportunities. There's the implicit assumption that all workers understand when something is dangerous, whereas if you're new to a job, you might not fully understand the implications of your actions."

As well, Safety Alerts of the Month will resume in the New Year. To sign up for Innovation Alerts, Safety Alerts of the Month, and other Council communications, visit [www.bcforestsafe.org/newsroom/newsletters.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/newsroom/newsletters.html).

## Upcoming events

- » The 8th Annual BC Natural Resource Forum will be held Jan. 12-13 at the Prince George Civic Centre. The theme is "New Partnerships, New Markets", with featured speakers such as the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin; Pat Bell, Minister of Forests, Mines and Lands; and the Consuls General from Japan and Korea. For more information and to register online, visit [www.bcnaturalresourceforum.com](http://www.bcnaturalresourceforum.com).
- » The 68th Annual Truck Loggers Association Convention and Trade Show, Jan. 19-20, will be held once again in Victoria at the Victoria Conference Centre & Fairmont Empress Hotel. "Positioned to Prosper" is this year's theme. For more information and to register online, visit [www.tla.ca](http://www.tla.ca).
- » Western Silviculture Association's 2011 Annual Conference and Trade Show will be held Feb. 3-4 at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort & Conference Centre in Kelowna. Courses are scheduled for Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. For details and registration, go to [www.wsca.ca](http://www.wsca.ca).
- » ABCFP's annual forestry conference and AGM (ExpoFor) will take place Feb. 24-25 in Vancouver at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. This year's theme, "Wood is Good", will highlight the links between what forest professionals grow and what the market demands. For more information or to register online visit [www.expofor.ca](http://www.expofor.ca).

## CEO's message

### Going home injury-free

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sectors in the province, albeit down from three times as high. As well, when injured, people in forestry are off work much longer than those in other BC industries. In 2010, six people died directly in our industry, and as of the end of October almost 750 people lost work time due to injuries.

Our challenge is to finish the job. We can continue the improvement to get to the provincial averages, and then be a leader by getting lower than the provincial averages. As we face retirements and economic improvement in the forest industry, we will be looking to attract new people. Telling them they are going to work in an industry dedicated to getting them back to their family injury-free after work — and proving it with a track record that shows we can do it — is a positive selling point.

REYNOLD HERTZ, CEO

