

SAFE Companies UPDATE



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5 MORE COMPANIES CONTRIBUTE TO SAFETY

Between Dec. 19–31, 5 more companies were SAFE certified. Congratulations to these companies, not only for making their job sites safer, but also because they're contributing overall to a safer culture in BC's forests and at forest product manufacturing sites:

Northway Log Trading Ltd., Slocan Park • Harrison Logging Ltd., Vernon • SDJL Contracting Incorporated, Gibsons • Hodder Tugboat Co. Ltd., Richmond • Tolko Industries Ltd. – Lakeview Lumber Division, Williams Lake

START THE YEAR RIGHT: JOIN 13 MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY SAFETY LEADERS

In only 2 months, 13 companies representing 52 separate operations were the first forest product manufacturers (FPMs) in BC to step up to the plate and apply for SAFE certification.

Pulp and paper, OSB, shake and shingle, sawmills, reman operations and pellet manufacturers were among the industry leaders who registered in the SAFE Companies program and undertook their certification audits by Dec. 31.

"We were thrilled to be able to roll out SAFE certification for forest product manufacturers back in November and then see so many forward thinkers understand the value of applying it to their own safety systems," says Steve Chaplin, Director, SAFE Companies.

"The leaders of these companies 'get it'. They're saying this is good for my workers and this is good for my business. That's real leadership."

The Forest Safety Council has been working for more

than a year on making the SAFE Companies program available to manufacturers in addition to woodlands ops. The new program is in line with WorkSafeBC's "natural alignment" concept, which allows certification of employers that have no health and safety association but operate in related sectors.

Small companies, large companies or individual owner-operators can apply. By becoming certified, the companies are eligible for a 10-15% COR rebate on their annual WorkSafeBC assessments, just like their woodlands counterparts.



KEN HALL: SAFE Companies manager

Once a critical majority is reached, the forest product manufacturers could also see their own health and safety association formed through SAFE Companies. This would generate useful tools like industry-recognized practices, statistical analysis of incident trends, and safety alerts that will help the entire industry create even better safety programs.

"These companies will be recognized for the safety systems they currently have in place, plus they can continually improve in safety," says Ken Hall, manager, SAFE Companies. "Continual improvement is the basis for everything to drive down overall injury rates in the industry and to ensure everybody gets home at night."

Safety will be improved in 2 ways. "First, we're going to see what works well and why it works well. Then we're going to try and adapt those practices and systems to the companies that are struggling to get good safety programs in place," he says.

"Second, we need to listen to the FPM sector, our clients, to hear what their needs are. For instance, if the sector determines they're being plagued by something

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2509 SAFE certified companies = Safety Leaders

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like repetitive back injuries, we'll look into why that's happening and work with them to develop solutions."

As an example, the council has been approached by one of the FPM sector associations to help develop systems to cut down on incidents that they have concerns with: explosions, fires and asphyxia. If successful, these industry-recognized practices could be adopted at a national level and benefit the industry as a whole.

In the end, it all adds up to good value and good safety.

To find out more details about getting SAFE certified as an FPM [click here](#) or contact Ken Hall in the Nanaimo office at 1-877-741-1060 or Hall@bcforestsafe.org.

KUDOS TO THE FIRST FPMs TO APPLY FOR SAFE CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to the following forest product manufacturers (FPMs) for being the first to apply for SAFE Companies certification:

- Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. & West Fraser Mills Ltd. dba Cariboo Pulp and Paper Company
- West Fraser Mills Ltd.: 8 sawmills, 2 plywood mills
- Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership: 3 pulp mills
- Canadian Forest Products Ltd./Louisiana Pacific (OSB) Ltd. dba Peace Valley OSB
- Canadian Forest Products Ltd.: 14 sawmills, 1 reman mill, 1 OSB mill
- Waldun Forest Products Partnership dba The Waldun Group: 1 shake and shingle mill, 1 sawmill
- Dunkley Lumber Ltd.: 1 sawmill
- Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd.: 1 sawmill
- Tolko Industries Ltd.: 3 sawmills
- Pinnacle Pellet Inc.: 5 pellet plants
- Western Forest Products Inc.: 5 sawmills
- Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. dba iLevel by Weyerhaeuser
- Tembec Industries Inc.: 2 sawmills



SAFETY ALERT



JUST SAY NO TO HAND-HELDS

As of Jan. 1, it's against the law to use any type of hand-held electronic device while driving in BC. The complete ban means no talking or texting on hand-held cell phones and PDAs like Blackberries, and no using or even looking at hand-held screens, including games, while you're at the wheel of any vehicle.

The Motor Vehicle Act changes mean only hands-free cell phones and devices that use one touch to activate are permitted. Drivers in the Graduated Licensing Program can't use any phones. Infractions will mean a \$167 fine starting Feb. 1, 2010. If drivers are caught texting or e-mailing, they'll also receive 3 penalty points.

This safety move is welcomed. Research shows that cell phone use while driving is the No. 1 cause of distracted driving, which results in about 1,400 hospital cases each year in BC.

TRUCK LOGGERS CONVENTION SPOTLIGHTS CHANGE

It promises to be compact and fast-paced, and take a hard look at the changing forest industry in the wake of the global recession. Called "The New Faces of Forestry", the 67th annual 2-day Truck Loggers Association Convention & Trade Show will be held Jan. 20-21 in Victoria. To view the program and/or register, visit www.tla.ca.



BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

Want more information? Have a story idea or comments about SAFE Companies Update? Contact us at safeco@bcforestsafe.org • www.bcforestsafe.org

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