



MAG Auditors Trained and Ready to Audit!

In the February edition of Forest Safety News, BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) announced that a new safety audit specifically addressing the needs of forestry manufacturers in BC was being rolled out to industry in 2019. Selecting and training auditors, which was the last step required prior to implementing the new audit tool, has now been completed. "The process of selecting and training external auditors was the last critical step to ensure that industry is being provided with the most competent and qualified

auditors to support the implementation of the new program", said Cherie Whelan, Director of SAFE Companies. "Auditors were selected and trained using a new competency-based training program which will ensure industry is provided with the best auditors possible. MAG believes that using an industry audit tool that places greater emphasis on risk across the sector will better help secure meaningful improved safety performance and auditors play a critical role in the process."

MAG Auditor Selection and Training Process



This diagram shows the activities that were part of the MAG auditor selection and training process.

1) Selection process - January-February 2019

An Expression of Interest went to all BCFSC Certified External Auditor and other auditors that were recommended by MAG companies. In the Expression of Interest, there were defined auditor basic 'Units of Competency' from the MAG-SAFE Audit protocol (work done in 2018). Links to the units of competency for MAG –SAFE Auditors can be found at (<http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/3268>)

- Student Auditors were selected based on:
 - i) Auditing skills or ability to acquire or demonstrate these skills
 - ii) Defined MAG units of competence (High Risk Modules)
 - 1) Guarding
 - 2) Working at Heights
 - 3) Lockout
 - 4) Mobile Equipment
 - 5) Sawmill Familiarity
- Body of Work / Sample Audits and
- References

2) Intake Competency Conversations

- These competency conversations were used as method to identify strengths and weaknesses in selected auditors. Information gathered through this process helped to ensure that the training plans developed addressed specific skills and knowledge for the MAG-SAFE Audit competency requirements.

3) 2 Day Workshop

A two-day workshop was held in Vancouver to introduce auditors to the newly developed MAG SAFE audit process, and more importantly, the expectations that MAG set out for auditors in the program. At this workshop, the auditors:

- Learned philosophy & methodology of MAG SAFE vs BASE Audit,
- Provided training in New Audit Tool (Excel)
- Worked together to build a supportive team to support one another in the MAG-Audit Program

4) Training Audit – May-June 2019

This was a new concept for Auditors at BCFSC. This step was added in developing competent auditors as a means to coach and mentor auditors during an actual audit.

All auditors participated in a 'Training Audit'. These were conducted at two different MAG sawmills in May-June 2019. During the training audits, there was an opportunity to:

- Coach and mentor auditors in identified weaknesses from Competency Conversations
- Provide hands on experience in fundamental vs. focused interviews
- Hands on experience on audit tool use
- Continue on team building (supportive vs competitive)

At the completion of the training audits, the Auditors were provided with gap plans to address identified weaknesses.

"I really enjoyed and learned from the job shadowing process that the MAG SAFE audit offered. Working with other skilled auditors and Bill Laturnus, Senior Manufacturing Safety Advisor with BCFSC as our mentor allowed a full understanding of our expectations and goals of the audit from our client as well as the BC Forest Safety Council." said Nicole Brandson, auditor who participated in the second training audit.

5) Student Audits

- i) All selected auditors will also participate in a shadowed 'Student Audit' where there will be an opportunity to provide individual feedback to each auditor on MAG SAFE auditing skills/knowledge/ attributes during an actual audit.
- Again, the auditor will be provided with a gap plan on identified weaknesses

6) Student Audit Quality assurance activities

This is the final step in auditor certification. At this part of the process, auditors will be provided with the option of a 'live QA' that:

- i) Allows for real-time feedback on report writing skills and audit corrections,
- ii) Allows auditor to provide us feedback on report writing process so we can adjust and make improvements where needed.

7) Ready to Audit!

To ensure auditors are provided with additional opportunities for continuous improvement within the program, a post-audit survey along with quarterly online webinars will also be hosted for auditors to align and strengthen the audit program through:

- Validation and Moderation session to bring all auditors up to the same skill level so that they are interchangeable in the field,
- Opportunity for feedback and best practice sharing between auditors

In addition, there will also be annual face-to-face workshops for all MAG-SAFE Auditors for feedback and best practice sharing between auditors and to provide professional development opportunities for the auditors. For example, operations tours in a best practice or to learn about new processes in industry, like the use of Control Isolating Safety Devices.

“For a group of experienced auditors, the MAG training provided an opportunity to apply the tool in an actual audit scenario but more significantly, created an environment where auditors could work cooperatively generating peer feedback.” said Sunshine Borsato, auditor who participated in MAG-SAFE Audit program training.

“It’s refreshing to bring together skilled auditors to share their skills and best practices in order to build a supportive team to support improved safety outcomes for manufacturing” said Bill.

Once the auditors have successfully completed a MAG-SAFE student audit, a list of approved MAG-SAFE Auditors will be available on the BCFSC website. Stay tuned for further updates! 📢

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation amends the Safety Headgear requirements

Only July 3rd, WorkSafeBC updated many Regulations, including one on safety headgear (hardhats). Section 8.11(4) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation now states:

Chin straps or other effective means of retention must be used on safety headgear when workers are climbing or working from a height exceeding 3 m (10 ft.), or are exposed to high winds or other conditions that may cause loss of the headgear.

The associated Guideline explains that the chin strap is used:

- To keep safety headgear in place on the wearer’s head during a fall,
- To keep safety headgear from becoming a falling object and a danger to workers working below, and
- To ensure the worker remains protected by safety headgear while doing work tasks.

The following specific examples of when to use a chin strap and when it would not typically be needed are included in the guideline

Some examples [of where a strap would be needed] are work on a ladder or scaffold over 10 feet high, or during work in an area with high wind (either natural wind or wind created by equipment such as a helicopter). Generally, it is not expected a chin strap would need to be worn by a worker on a floor or deck enclosed by guardrails.

While high wind is not explicitly defined in the Guideline, the Beaufort scale description for 7 (high wind) is “Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against the wind.”

Wind can come up at any time during any day. Forestry (and other) workers who wear hard hats outdoors should therefore consider always having a chin strap with them, or tucked up in the hard hat ready to use. Going back to the truck or base to get the chin strap each time is not practical.

We have seen many workers on our site visits using chin straps even in calm conditions. These best practices include fallers, tree climbers, tree planters, engineers, heli-logging ground crews, rigging crews, boat and booming crews, scalers and indoor workers such as millwrights. 📢



WorkSafeBC – Know Your Hard Hat
www.worksafebc.com