

MAG

Manufacturing Advisory Group

Why a MAG-SAFE Audit?

MAG companies recognized that WorkSafeBC's Certificate of Recognition (COR) program is effective in supporting the development and improvement of safety programs across multiple sectors in British Columbia, including the wood products manufacturing sector. However, MAG felt that if industry was to achieve further continuous improvement in safety performance, COR was no longer a high enough bar for sawmills in BC. Using an industry audit tool that places greater emphasis on risk across the sector will better help secure meaningful improved safety performance.

COR was first introduced to manufacturing in 2006 and was used for more than 10 years. A couple of years ago MAG successfully developed, tested and implemented a dust audit tool which allowed industry to achieve a 98% compliance rate in WorkSafeBC inspections.

"MAG was in a strong place to ask ourselves how do we, as an industry, further improve safety in BC sawmills and what do we need to do to get there," explained Matt Franks, a former MAG member and Canfor Safety Manager, Wood Products Operations.

"The answer was developing an audit tool that could consistently, effectively and efficiently measure our sawmill safety performance particularly in high-risk areas that is also aligned with WorkSafeBC's high-risk strategy," he said.

Making MAG-SAFE

MAG set up a project team with John Bulcock (Western Forest Products) as Project Champion to work with the BCFSC to build an audit that would enable them to maintain SAFE Companies certification and allow them more flexibility to take a "deeper dive" into their high-risk areas. The objective is to secure the most relevant measurement of safety management systems in a process-driven manufacturing environment, consistent with the high-risk strategy elements identified by both industry and WorkSafeBC.

"The MAG-SAFE Companies audit tool development was a collaborative process. We consulted and worked with MAG company representatives, BCFSC staff, subject matter experts, and experienced manufacturing sector external auditors," said Cherie Whelan, Director SAFE Companies.

"We constantly analyzed, tested and refined the tool in repetitive cycles with the MAG project team providing us with direction and oversight on an on-going basis to ensure that we built an audit that met MAG's objectives."

MAG Audit Development Process



This diagram shows the activities that were part of the audit development process.

Principles applied to the new audit tool included:

1. Maintains third party certification by the BCFSC.
2. Risk-based, moving away from a compliance-based tool to a risk-based audit program aligned with WorkSafeBC’s High Risk Strategy.
3. Increased audit activities focused on high-risk areas and activities and increased emphasis on observations and interviews with less reliance on documentation.
4. Increased efficiencies in auditing to add more value and minimize bureaucracy
 - a) Integration into SAFE Companies existing programs to reduce administrative and bureaucratic burden while supporting continuous improvement of MAG safety management systems and safety culture
 - b) Reduced auditing requirements with ability to focus on corrective actions for maintenance years (Alternative Maintenance Action Plan)
 - c) Combustible Dust audit requirements are integrated into the new MAG-SAFE Audit cycle
 - d) Audit program will be scalable and flexible so that it works for any size wood products manufacturing organization with equivalency considerations for employers with well-established audit programs.

The new audit consists of 10 Fundamental Elements and a rotation of High-Risk Modules that are aligned with WorkSafeBC’s High-Risk Strategy.

The table below shows the management system elements and the first four high-risk areas that will be part of the first 3-year audit cycle.

MAG Safety Management System Elements	High Risk Modules
1 Leadership, Commitment and Communication	A Work at heights and elevating devices
2 Effective Supervision	B Safeguarding
3 Safety Program Administration	C Mobile Equipment Operation and Pedestrian Safety
4 Management of Change	D Lockout
5 Hazard Assessment & Control	
6 Education, Training and Competence	
7 Workplace Inspections & Monitoring	
8 First Aid & Emergency Response	
9 Investigation of Incidents and Occupational Disease	
10 Contractor Safety Management	

The new audit provides detailed instructions to the auditor on how to conduct and record the audit to ensure that the results are the best match to reality. For example, there are mandatory times of day and times of week to include in the audit that ensure night shifts (clean-up and maintenance), as well as weekday and weekend shifts to be audited. Other mandatory requirements include specific physical areas of the facility and target activities that must be observed.



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Audit Pilot Testimonials

"Our Gorman Group Lumber mill in Westbank was the third mill to participate in the pilot and I couldn't be happier with the audit process and rigor. This new audit launches off the foundation of historical safety program administrative findings through the previous audit processes, and without redundancy or constraints, focuses the auditor into the categorical areas where serious injury and fatality risks may be lurking," said David Murray, Corporate Safety, HR and Environment Manager at Gorman Group.

"We constantly analyzed, tested and refined the tool in repetitive cycles with the MAG project team providing us with direction and oversight on an on-going basis to ensure that we built an audit that met MAG's objectives."

"I am convinced that companies will get a lot of value out of this MAG-SAFE audit tool," said Martin Ridgway, BCFSC SAFE Companies Supervisor, Quality Assurance who observed each of the pilot audits.

"No previous audit tool has had mandatory requirements for the auditor to look at the 'off' shifts and the 'back' and 'under' sides of the operation. It takes the best practices of highly experienced auditors and how they approach the risks of company activities and transfers those methods to benefit all auditors and companies using the tool."