

Faller Certification Information and Application Package

Purpose:

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is committed to providing members and clients with exceptional service. This includes providing accurate information and guidance to prospective applicants to ensure they make informed decisions about the program.

BCFSC will ensure assessment and admission criteria are well publicized and applied consistently. All applicants will have clear access and lines of communication regarding the pre-requisites, assessment tools, admission requirements and dispute resolution guidelines.

Entry assessment tools and admission requirements enable potential applicants to clearly articulate their ability to meet required basic knowledge, skills, and abilities to achieve program outcomes.

Overview:

The BC Faller Training Standard was developed by WorkSafeBC and Industry to support faller certification and a new faller training program in BC. The BCFSC, Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors (CAGC) and the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) are currently the only WorkSafeBC approved Administrators of the BC Faller Training Standard (BCFTS).

New Faller Trainee Requirements (BCFSC Trained Candidates):

After completing 30 days of 1 on 1 training, the trainee must work in a forestry/ production setting under the direction and close supervision of a BCFSC certified faller. Their trainer must complete and sign their Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports. They must provide, at a minimum, 20 approved reports to the BCFSC, of which the last 5 must indicate the trainee is meeting the BCFTS in all areas. These reports must be submitted within 2 months of the date the work took place. (Reports will be considered expired after a 2-year time period). During this portion of the training, the BCFSC will arrange a minimum of 3 quality assurance checks on the training. These checks may include an onsite visit from a BCFSC representative, a phone call, or an online meeting. After the required amount of weekly training reports have been submitted and approved, the trainee will be required to receive recommendation for faller certification from their trainer. When all requirements are met, they can apply for faller certification. The trainer or supervisor completing and signing the Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports MUST be certified with the BCFSC.

Skills Challenge Requirements (Individuals Trained Outside of BCFSC):

Experienced fallers challenging BCFSC Faller Certification are assessed on their knowledge and ability to apply the BC Faller Training Standard.

There is WorkSafeBC criteria that must be followed. Fallers with training in other administrators or jurisdictions who want to apply to challenge the BCFSC Faller Certification will be required to provide evidence of training and experience.

The BCFSC Faller Certification is intended for forestry/production applications, and as such, evidence of falling experience will be required to be in a forestry/production type setting to be eligible.

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The criteria for accepting challenges outside the BCFSC 30-day New Faller Training program are as follows:

1. The applicant must provide evidence of verifiable training that is acceptable to WorkSafeBC.
2. The applicant must provide evidence of a minimum of 2 years of recent and appropriate falling experience in the period preceding the application. This evidence must be provided using the Declaration of Falling Experience form (included below).

Please note that the falling experience must be a minimum of 90 days in “each” calendar year preceding the application.

3. The faller must have conducted manual tree falling as their primary function. The applicant must have been working with appropriate supervision and receiving regular falling inspections, based on the BCFTS. Duties must be comprised of manual tree falling and related duties. These duties include but are not limited to:
 - a. Planning and constructing escape routes
 - b. Danger Tree management
 - c. Bucking felled trees and logs for harvesting needs
 - d. Establishing minimum and maximum distances between fallers and other workers
 - e. Summoning and rendering assistance to manage a falling difficulty or dealing with an emergency
 - f. Controlling the fall of trees and minimizing unnecessary brushing
 - g. Using mechanical assistance to fall trees (if required)
 - h. Ensuring the well-being of each faller and buckler
 - i. Working in multiple timber types and terrain
 - j. Creating multi-tree falling plans
 - k. Working on a falling face with other fallers (strategy of quarter management)

As per #2 above, the applicant must submit evidence from their employer(s) that states the faller conducted acceptable falling duties for the minimum required number of days in different timber types and terrain. Acceptable documentation would include:

- A Declaration of Falling Experience from the falling supervisor(s) or employer(s). Each employer is required to fill out a separate Declaration of Falling Experience.
- One or more logbooks, or equivalent, (must include a detailed training and work history).

Eligibility Requirements to Apply for Skills Assessment

Training/Work Experience	Training	Work Experience
BCFSC trainee fallers	30-days training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a forestry/production setting under direction and close supervision of a BCFSC certified faller Minimum 20 approved weekly progress reports (last 5 show meeting in all sections) Minimum of 3 quality assurance checks from the BCFSC Trainer's sign off and recommendation Reference: OHS reg 26.22 Forestry operation faller training
CAGC certified fallers BCWS certified fallers	CAGC Certification BCWS Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must show evidence of minimum of 2 years (90 days min = 1 year) forestry/production falling experience within last 2 years Reference: G26.22(7) Forestry operation faller training - Challenge process
Out of jurisdiction faller (not in BC)	Must submit a verifiable training record from a training agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must show evidence of minimum of 2 years (90 days min = 1 year) forestry/production falling experience within last 2 years Reference: G26.22(7) Forestry operation faller training - Challenge process
<p>Work experience that does not meet the requirements to challenge BCFSC Faller Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Utility Arborists with or without falling bucking endorsement BC Wildfire sector experience Oil and Gas sector experience Fall and burn Ski hill falling (Glading) Silviculture Workers and Spacers Parks and Municipal Workers Agricultural Workers Reference: G26.22(7) Forestry operation faller training - Challenge process		

It is recommended that the applicant is interviewed by the BCFSC to determine if the requirements to challenge are met prior to applying.

If it is determined that evidence, experience and/or training does not meet the BCFSC and WorkSafeBC criteria, the BCFSC reserves the right to require additional evidence and/or training in a forestry/production setting or may require the candidate to enroll in the New Faller Training program. The BCFSC website has further information regarding the [New Faller Training Course](#).

Assessment Process:

Applicants will be advised of their application status. Successful applicants will be contacted for payment and will also receive a package with various reference materials to assist in preparing for their assessment. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with a written response with regards to next steps.

The Assessment for Faller Certification will be performed by an approved BCFSC Assessor. The Assessor will contact the applicant to review the process of the assessment and to co-ordinate a suitable time and location.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to supply a suitable site for their assessment. Once the application is approved, a Pre-Assessment document will be provided.

The assessment is a three-part process to evaluate the applicant's technical competency, safe work practices, professionalism, knowledge, and practical skills as a faller.

***Note:** *Part 1 is not applicable to New Faller Training graduates.*

1. Basic Skills Assessment
2. BC Faller Training Standard – Faller Practical Field Assessment
3. Gap training if required

Each part of the assessment must be successfully completed to proceed to the next part (see page 5, Skills Challenge Applicants (out of jurisdiction) for more detail)

Circumstances beyond the Assessor and applicant's control could result in the assessment ending prematurely. In this circumstance, the assessment will be re-scheduled. Examples may include inclement weather conditions (wind, rainfall limits, excessive snowfall), wildlife, or licensee cancellations.

Other individuals, for training or quality assurance purposes, may attend the assessment; however, the applicant would be informed prior to the assessment.

BCFSC Guidelines regarding assessments that are stopped for safety concerns:

Every effort is made to ensure BCFSC Falling Programs are delivered safely and effectively. Assessments will be stopped if the applicant is unprepared or if the Assessor has any safety concerns. BCFSC supports their Assessors in communicating and enforcing consequences of any risk and safety violations.

Examples of reasons that may trigger a **STOP** to the practical field assessment and result in an unsuccessful challenge include but are not limited to:

- Major safety infraction(s) by the faller including the Designated High-Risk Violations: Hand Falling or Bucking. See the reference materials for more information on the Designated High-Risk Violations: Hand Falling or Bucking
- The faller lacks safety critical knowledge of the BC Faller Training Standard
- The faller does not grasp the key concepts in safely falling and bucking trees
- The faller is not physically or mentally able to safely fall trees
- STOP points in the BCFSC Warning and Stop Points document

Skills Challenge Applicants (out of jurisdiction):

- Applicants must demonstrate basic chainsaw handling, bucking skills and demonstrate safe work procedures for undercuts and backcuts in stumps during the Basic Skills Assessment before moving to the full Faller Practical Field Assessment. If applicants are unsuccessful, they will not move forward and will be required to take training that is acceptable to the BCFSC.
- If the applicant does not meet the outcomes of the competency-based Faller Practical Field Assessment, a gap training plan will be created. Once the gap training plan is complete and the applicant is prepared to be reassessed, they can contact the BCFSC to schedule another assessment. Subsequent site visits required due to training or assessments will be at the cost of the applicant. Time frames for reassessment will be provided in the gap training plan.

Additional costs to applicant may include:

- BCFSC Assessor and/or Trainer daily rates
- Cost of additional skills assessments

If the assessment is stopped because the applicant was unprepared e.g., unacceptable ERP or PPE, the applicant may pay for and schedule another skills assessment.

BCFSC New Faller Trainees:

- If the applicant does not meet the outcomes of the competency-based Faller Practical Field Assessment, a gap training plan will be created. If the gap training plan requires the trainee to receive performance upgrade training from a BCFSC approved trainer, the candidate may receive the initial up to 5 days of training at no cost. Subsequent site visits required due to training or assessment will be at the cost of the trainee. Time frames for reassessment will be provided in the gap training plan.
- Additional costs to trainee may include:
 - BCFSC Assessor and/or Trainer daily rates
 - Cost of additional skills assessments

If the assessment is stopped because the applicant was unprepared e.g., unacceptable ERP or PPE, the applicant may pay for and schedule another skills assessment.

If trainees are unsuccessful after a second attempt at challenging the Faller Practical Field Assessment, the BCFSC will create and discuss a specific training plan with the trainee on a case-by-case situation.

Accommodation & Food Requirements:

Accommodation and meals are the responsibility of the applicant.

Equipment and Supplies:

It is the applicant's responsibility to have the necessary equipment and supplies. Applicants are reminded that they are responsible for the safekeeping of their equipment and supplies. Applicants that require further information regarding the equipment required for the assessment can reference the BC Faller Training Standard Info Flips included with the reference package or speak to the assigned Assessor.

Insurance Coverage:

Applicants are responsible for their own Workers Compensation insurance coverage. A copy of insurance including an active number is required with the application.

Refunds/Withdrawals:

The BCFSC is a not-for-profit organization. The refund/withdrawal guidelines are in place to ensure that costs associated with performing falling advocacy are covered. e.g., the Assessor's time is valuable, and these costs still need to be recovered with short notice cancellations.

1. There will be no refunds for cancellations with less than 72 hours' notice. Fallers who miss appointments without the 72-hour notice will be required to pay for an additional assessment.
2. A refund, or further attempt, may, or may not be granted for Skills Assessments that are stopped depending on the situation. Reference the BCFSC Guidelines regarding assessments that are stopped for safety concerns section within this document for further detail

Re-certification Requirements:

Currently there are no re-certification requirements in Regulation. Fallers will be notified in writing of any program changes. Current information can be found on the website or in the BCFSC Forest Safety newsletter.

Further Information:

For more information about the application and assessment requirements please visit the BCFSC web site: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2516> or contact:

Falling Department

Office hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (Pacific Standard Time) Monday to Friday

Phone: 1-877-741-1060

Fax: 1-250-741-1068

E-mail: faller@bcforestsafe.org

Application Form - Assessment for Faller Certification			
<p>Note: Please review the associated information package that explains the assessment process in detail prior to application.</p> <p>In order to process your application, please ensure it is fully completed, signed, and dated.</p>			
Personal Contact Information: (complete fully and print clearly)			
Legal First Name:	Legal Middle Name(s):	Legal Last Name:	
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):			
Mailing Address:			
City:		Province/State:	
Country:		Postal Code:	
Phone Number:	Cell Phone Number:	Email:	
Preferred means of contact:			
Emergency Contact Name:		Emergency Contact Phone Number:	
Geographic Location:			
<input type="checkbox"/> South/Mid Coast	<input type="checkbox"/> Vancouver Island	<input type="checkbox"/> Thompson/Okanagan	<input type="checkbox"/> Kootenays
<input type="checkbox"/> North Coast/Haida Gwaii	<input type="checkbox"/> Peace	<input type="checkbox"/> Omineca/Skeena	<input type="checkbox"/> Cariboo
Assessment Location: Please indicate the nearest approximate town or location that you could meet the assessor.			
Special Circumstances: Indicate special circumstances that might affect scheduling of your assessment. For example, if you are unavailable certain times or require advance notice to be available for the assessment.			
Training:			
<input type="checkbox"/> I have attached certificates or documentation to verify training pre-requisites are met.			
<p>*Note: If you have participated in the BCFSC New Faller Training Program, BCFSC will have these records on file, and you are not required to resubmit your weekly training reports.</p> <p>If you are certified with either CAGC, the BC Wildfire Service, or another certifying body, please provide a copy of your current certification card. Additional documentation may be requested.</p>			

Work Experience:

- BCFSC Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports have been submitted, reviewed, and approved (BCFSC New Faller Trainees only)

OR

- Completed the Declaration of Falling Experience (**one per employer**)
- I have attached copies of signed logbook(s) (**evidence of experience**)

***Note:** The BCFSC may require additional information from the provided references. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that contact information is available on the reference letter(s) and the references respond when contacted by the BCFSC. If your reference cannot be contacted, it will result in your application being delayed.

Guidelines:

WorkSafeBC Coverage:

Applicants are responsible for arranging their own WSBC insurance coverage for their Skills Assessment.

- I have current WSBC insurance coverage, and I am in good standing
WSBC account number:

Program Guidelines:

- I have read the information package and agree to the program guidelines.
- As outlined above, I understand there may be additional costs if a gap training plan is required after the initial assessment.

Falling Experience:			
2024	Date Range:	Number of Days Worked:	Location of Work:
Industry: <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry/Production <input type="checkbox"/> Oil and Gas <input type="checkbox"/> BCWS <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
If other, please explain Below:			
Description of work that took place:			

Further Details of Hand Falling Experience:			
Type of Falling:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cable <input type="checkbox"/> Ground based <input type="checkbox"/> Heli <input type="checkbox"/> R/W <input type="checkbox"/> Fall & Burn <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Mod <input type="checkbox"/> Glading <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, please explain below:		
Slope:	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 30% <input type="checkbox"/> 30-60% <input type="checkbox"/> Over 60%	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Second Growth	
Diameter:	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 12" <input type="checkbox"/> 12 - 18" <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 24" <input type="checkbox"/> 24 - 36" <input type="checkbox"/> Over 36"		
Falling duties: Check the applicable boxes to indicate the falling experience of the applicant			
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning and using escape routes <input type="checkbox"/> Managing falling difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Active falling area hazard management <input type="checkbox"/> Use of qualified assistance/man-checks <input type="checkbox"/> Bucking for harvesting needs <input type="checkbox"/> Opening up <input type="checkbox"/> Creating multi-tree falling plans <input type="checkbox"/> Working on a face with other fallers <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple timber types and terrain <input type="checkbox"/> Danger Tree management			
Alternate Falling Methods:	<input type="checkbox"/> Upslope Falling <input type="checkbox"/> Re-fall cut-up tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Leaner <input type="checkbox"/> Limb-Tied	<input type="checkbox"/> Short Stubby <input type="checkbox"/> Backcut First
Comments:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Falling inspections, based on the BC Faller Training Standard, have been conducted on the applicant in time intervals appropriate to the risk <input type="checkbox"/> I Recommend faller challenge the BC Faller Training Standard Faller Practical Field Assessment for faller certification with the BC Forest Safety Council			
Employer Signature:			Date:

Privacy Statement:

The BCFSC is committed to protecting the privacy of any personal information you provide when submitting an application form to us. The BCFSC complies with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and discloses the information that could be shared with other parties.

Your financial information is only used for the purpose of the application and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Your faller certification information will be used for the following purposes:

- Your involvement in the faller certification program
- Verification of your faller status in the SAFE Companies program
- Confirmation of faller certification status directly to employers, or the BCFSC website
- Compliance with WSBC

Other than the reasons above, your confidential information will not be disclosed to third parties. Your information is valuable, and we ensure all reasonable measures are taken to protect it.

I have read, understand, and agree to this privacy statement.

Attestation:

I attest that the information I have provided is complete and accurate; and I authorize the BCFSC to verify its accuracy. I understand and agree that if I provide untrue information and/or false documents, this may lead to my certification being denied or deemed invalid.

I agree to this attestation.

Applicant Name (Print):	Applicant Signature:	Date:

Application Processing & Payment Information:

Applications will be reviewed and processed within one to two weeks, depending on current volumes. BCFSC will contact you for payment information once the application is approved. The payment fee for the assessment is \$1680.00 (\$1600.00 + \$80 GST). Applicants that are declined will be notified via email.

Send completed form to the BC Forest Safety Council by:

1. Email: faller@bcforestsafe.org
2. Fax: 250-741-1068
3. Mail: Attention: BC Faller Certification Program 8C-2220 Bowen Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9S-1H9

Questions? Call us toll-free: 1-877-741-1060 or go to our website www.bcforestsafe.org

A Faller's Logbook and BCFSC Faller card will be issued on successful completion and review of the assessment. This process typically takes two to four weeks depending on current volumes.



OFFICE USE ONLY

- Meets the requirements to challenge the BCFTS Faller Practical Field Assessment for faller certification with the BCFSC
- Does not meet the requirements to challenge the BCFTS Faller Practical Field Assessment for faller certification with the BCFSC

BCFSC Verifier Comments:

Verifier Name:

Verifier Signature:

Date:

Date Payment Processed:

Date Falling Info Flips & Reference Package sent:

Assessor Assigned: