New for 2026: EMAP Audit Tool

Earlier this year, BCFSC launched a new BASE Maintenance Audit tool called the **Enhanced Maintenance Audit Protocol (EMAP)** that was developed with BCFSC, WorkSafeBC and the SAFE Companies Advisory Committee (SCAC). This new tool is available to qualifying BASE-sized companies and will help organizations strengthen their safety management systems and improve their safety performance. To date, feedback has been very positive, and we're excited to see the impact this new tool will have.

To find out if you are eligible to use the EMAP Audit Tool, contact SAFE Companies at 1.877.741.1060 or email us at safeco@bcforestsafe.org.

First Aid Regulation Reminder

It has been two years since the First Aid regulatory changes came into effect on November 1, 2024, but we're still seeing a number of companies that haven't fully implemented the requirements at their worksites.

Some of the most common gaps we continue to see include:

- Not using the updated First Aid Assessment form
- Not conducting required first aid drills
- Not upgrading first aid kits to meet current standards

Take a few minutes to review your program and make sure you're meeting all current regulatory requirements.



SAFE Companies Audit Scoring Requirements

As audit season continues, it's important for companies to understand the minimum scoring requirements needed to achieve SAFE Companies certification and maintain good standing in the program. These requirements help ensure that safety management systems are not only in place but are being effectively implemented and maintained.

A reminder that **80% remains the minimum passing score for all SAFE Companies audits.** To meet this requirement, companies must achieve at least:

- **11.5 out of 14** on IOO audits
- **19.5 out of 24** on ISEBASE and SEBASE audits

For BASE audits, there is an additional requirement. Every individual question must receive a minimum score of 50%. This helps ensure there are no significant gaps in your safety management system by requiring each section of the audit to meet a minimum standard.

Reviewing audit requirements before starting the process can help identify potential gaps early and improve the likelihood of a successful outcome. If you have questions about scoring requirements or preparing for an audit, the SAFE Companies team is available to help. Give us a call at 1.877.741.1060 or email us at safeco@bcforestsafe.org.

Real Time Audit Reviews Continue to Grow

2026 was another successful year for the Real Time Audit Review program.

Audit review sessions held at the Interior Logging Association and Interior Safety Conference in April were once again well attended. In October, we also held a review session for the growing Gorman Bros. Group, which was formerly part of the Princeton Weyerhaeuser Group.

We always encourage more companies to participate. Real Time Reviews. They are a great opportunity to review your audit with feedback and support from SAFE Companies Advisors. Here's what you get:

- **It's free.** There is no cost to participate, making it an easy way to receive additional support during the audit process.
- **Get valuable feedback right away.** Audit reviewers can identify gaps, answer questions and provide clarification on requirements, saving you time and reducing guesswork.

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- **Learn from the experts.** Participants receive guidance from experienced SAFE Companies Advisor who can walk you through the audit process, explain scoring requirements and help ensure your documentation is complete.
- **Improve your safety management system immediately.** Feedback can be applied on the spot, allowing you to make updates and strengthen your safety management system before submitting your audit.
- **Save time and avoid rework.** Addressing issues early can help prevent delays, reduce follow-up questions and increase confidence that your audit submission meets program requirements.
- **Build a stronger understanding of the audit process.** You'll leave with a clearer understanding of expectations and ideas for continuous improvement.

If you have a large group of small contractors, SAFE Companies can bring Real Time Audit Reviews directly to your location and review audits on the spot. To learn more or schedule a session, call 1.877.741.1060 or email safeco@bcforestsafe.org.

2026 Site Visits

Despite staffing challenges and another difficult wildfire season, SAFE Companies site visits were well received in 2026.

When a SAFE Companies Safety Advisor visits your site, it gives you the opportunity to work directly with them in the field to complete your SAFE Companies maintenance audit. Not only does it give you a chance to ask questions and discuss any challenges face-to-face, but it also replaces the traditional paper audit submission which can be an administrative burden, especially for smaller operations.

Companies that schedule site visits with SAFE Companies Safety Advisors typically score better on their audit because information isn't accidentally missed or overlooked and some audit questions can be verified through workplace observations and conversations with workers and supervisors.

If your company is in a maintenance year in 2027, you may receive a call or email inviting you to schedule a Site Visit Audit. We recommend you take advantage of this great opportunity. We can help you complete your audit on site and offer you valuable insights and ways to improve your safety program.

What Should You Report If You Had Little Work During Your Reporting Year?

If your company had limited operational activity during the reporting year, you may be wondering what information needs to be included in your audit. The answer to that question is that the audit process remains largely the same, even when operating periods are reduced.

Any reportable work requires a full audit submission. Reportable work includes any month in which assessable payroll was reported to your WorkSafeBC account.

On Page 2 of the Small Employer Audit Tool, within the Company Profile section, you are asked to declare the maximum worker count for each month you operated. For months when no assessable payroll was reported to WorkSafeBC, enter **0**. For months in which work was performed, enter the maximum number of workers for that month.

The remainder of the audit is completed as it would be for any other reporting year, with one exception.

For **Question 11**, you are required to submit monthly safety meeting minutes for each month in which you operated. For example, if your company only worked during six months of the year, you would only need to submit six monthly safety meeting records, not twelve.

Most audit questions require only one example from the current reporting year. Even if you operated for only part of the year, you are still expected to maintain the required safety records and documentation during those active months. This may include:

- One Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- One First Aid Assessment
- One Worker Assessment
- One Tailgate Meeting Record
- One Hazard or Close Call Report
- One Site Inspection Report

If you're unsure what documentation to submit because of reduced operating activity, contact us and speak with a SAFE Companies Safety Advisor. We can help clarify what your need to submit in your annual audit submission. Contact SAFE Companies at 1-877-741-1060 or email us at safeco@bcforestsafe.org.

What Is a "No Work Audit"?

A common question we receive is about audit submissions when there is no work to report. When a company has had no work to report in the 12 months prior to their audit submission due date, they COULD declare a No Work Audit. Unfortunately, many audits we receive are submitted incorrectly as "No Work Audits," which can lead to audit failure and the need to complete a new audit submission.

Understanding what a No Work Audit is, and if it applies to you, can save time and help ensure your audit is submitted correctly the first time to maintain your SAFE Companies Certification.

When Does a Company Qualify for a No Work Audit?

A No Work Audit applies only when *no work activity has occurred during the 12 months prior to the audit submission date*.

To qualify:

- No workers were hired.
- No contractors or subcontractors were hired.
- The owner did not perform any paid work that required insurance coverage through the company's WorkSafeBC account.
- No assessable payroll was reported to WorkSafeBC.

It's important to remember that SAFE Companies certification applies to all company work activities, not just forestry-related work. If a company, its workers, contractors or owner performed any work that resulted in assessable payroll being reported to WorkSafeBC, an audit must be submitted with reported work.

We see a significant number of audits submitted incorrectly as No Work Audits. In many of these cases, companies had work activity during the reporting period but didn't realize it needed to be reported.

When an audit is submitted as a No Work Audit because the work was not forestry related, the audit fails and a new audit submission is required. This can create unnecessary delays, particularly for companies that need SAFE Companies certification to secure contracts.

Reporting Worker Counts

Small Employer audit tools include a Company Profile section where companies report their maximum worker count for each month of the reporting year.

For an audit to qualify as a No Work Audit, the worker count must be reported as zero (0) in all 12 months. If work was performed at any time during the reporting year, even for a single day, and the company's WorkSafeBC coverage was activated, the audit must be completed as an audit with work and all related reporting requirements must be met.

No Work Audits for Individual Owner Operators (IOOs)

Because IOOs are not permitted to hire workers or contractors, a No Work Audit for an IOO simply means the owner did not perform any paid work requiring them to provide their own WorkSafeBC coverage during the reporting year.

Completing online training, developing safe work procedures or preparing an audit does not count as reportable work if no compensation was received.

While reporting requirements are reduced, IOOs must still complete several audit requirements, including:

- Reporting zero workers for all 12 months of the reporting year.
- Providing written responses to applicable audit questions.
- Submitting a site-specific Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the home office location, including a check-in procedure.
- Submitting at least one Safe Work Procedure (SWP).

No Work Audits for ISEBASE and SEBASE Companies

ISEBASE and SEBASE companies may also qualify for a No Work Audit if they had no workers, contractors or paid work activities requiring WorkSafeBC coverage during the reporting year.

Although fewer documents are required, companies must still demonstrate that key safety management processes are in place. In most cases, this involves completing audit questions and submitting reporting forms, even if they are blank, that show the company is prepared to meet reporting requirements when work begins.

Companies must also submit:

- A site-specific ERP for their home office location.
- Emergency response procedures covering injuries, fires, fatalities and natural disasters.
- A blank Emergency Response Plan drill form.
- Responses to applicable audit questions and other required documentation identified in the audit tool.

If you're unsure whether your company qualifies for a No Work Audit, or if you have questions about what documentation is required, contact a SAFE Companies Safety Advisor before submitting your audit. A quick conversation can help avoid delays and ensure your audit is completed correctly. Call 1-877-741-1060 or email safeco@bcforestsafe.org.