



Standard 7: Professionalism and Ethics

Principle

Canada's professional forester serves the public interest and understands the role of the profession. Professional foresters have integrity, are competent, independent and accountable for their actions and decisions. They maintain professional standards and conduct based on ethical principles including life-long learning and continuing competency requirements.

Relevant Components

- Commitment to life long learning and career development.
- Contact with the professional forestry regulatory body.
- Conflict of interest.
- Knowledge of professional regulation and history.
- Moral and ethical questions in forest resource use.
- Professional character includes independence, integrity, competence, respect and accountability.
- Professional ethics, obligations and codes of conduct.
- Standards of professional practice.
- Understanding of due diligence, limits to competence, law of professional negligence, duty of care, accountability and professional liability.

Demonstrable Competency Requirements

A candidate for certification shall be able to:

- 1. Describe the role of self-regulating professions in society.**
 - a. Identify the primary functions of professions.
 - b. Explain the structure and functions of the forestry profession
 - c. Describe the role of the forestry profession within the context of other professions.
- 2. Describe a range of duties and obligations imposed on, and by, professional regulatory bodies.**
 - a. Identify the purpose and function of a professional regulatory body.
 - b. Describe the obligations expected of a professional forester.

- c. Describe the reasons for discipline and complaint resolution processes.¹
- d. Describe and explain the importance of entry and quality assurance standards for professions.

3. Explain competency limitations.

- a. Describe how to determine personal competence.
- b. Describe ones own particular areas of competence.
- c. Recognize situations when outside expertise is required.

4. Describe the characteristics and attitudes of a professional forester.

- a. Explain the purpose of a code of conduct.
- b. Illustrate personal accountability for decisions.
- c. Recognize the potential differences between technical, social, professional, ethical and scientifically sound practice.
- d. Recognize similarities and differences between approaches (e.g. cultural, scientific, legislative).
- e. Differentiate between service to the public, profession, employer and resource.
- f. Describe the importance of and demonstrate the application of professional documentation.
- g. Explain what is meant to work in the public's interest.
- h. Explain the variety of ethics that are applied in the profession of forestry.

1. For accreditation purposes it is sufficient that at the time of graduation, students from the program proponent be able to describe concepts and processes within professions generally. Provincially specific knowledge will be imparted through other avenues and examined or adjudicated by the provincial regulator at the time of or before full licensure is granted.