



Ontario Professional
Foresters Association

INFORMATION SHEET

PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY and FOREST AUDITING

By authority of the *Professional Foresters Act, 2000*, the OPFA regulates the practice of professional forestry in Ontario. Although the Act provides a legal definition of professional forestry in Ontario, regulating professional forestry occasionally requires an interpretation of that legal definition and how it applies to specific circumstances.

A copy of the *Professional Foresters Act, 2000* is available on the Ontario Government's e-laws site at: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_00p18_e.htm

The legal definition of the scope of practice of the profession of forestry in Ontario is set out in Section 3 of the *Professional Foresters Act, 2000*. Individuals conducting audits of forest operations need to be aware that the act of forest auditing is within the scope of practice of professional forestry.

The following does not represent an exhaustive list of what constitutes the practice of professional forestry, but simply provides examples related to forest auditing in addition to those provided in the Act.

Subsection 3(1) of the Act lists the following specific examples of forestry activities which require the knowledge, training or experience equivalent to that required to become a member of the Association.

(b) the appraisal, evaluation and certification of forests and urban forests;

Additional Examples:

- Auditing forest management activities for a recognized forest certification agency or institution.
- Determining the effectiveness of the development and application of silvicultural prescriptions and treatments, including timber harvesting, as they relate to certification standards.

(c) the auditing of forest management practices;

Additional Examples:

- Auditing forest management activities for a recognized forest certification agency or institution.
- Preparing an official examination and verification of records and practices prescribed by a Registered Professional Forester. Examples include, but are not limited to, Independent Forest Audits, tree plant audits, compliance audits, silviculture audits.

(d) the assessment of impacts from planned activities on forests and urban forests;

Additional Examples:

- Analyzing impacts of the manipulation of forest cover (including determination of silvicultural strategies, harvest levels, selection of areas for harvest and renewal and the resulting forecast forest condition and forest diversity). Analysis may influence the development and use of spatial and non-spatial computer models or other decision support tools.
- Assessment of achievement of management objectives.
- Assessment and reporting of planned and actual forest management activities (annual or by planning term).

FOREST AUDITING continued:

Please note that if the area being audited is in Ontario, the forest auditor is required to be a practicing member of the OPFA, or a current Temporary Permit holder, regardless of where the actual auditing or report preparation is conducted.

Where it appears to the OPFA that any person does not comply with any provision of the Act or the regulation, the Association may apply under section 59 of the Act for a cease and desist order or injunction to the Superior Court of Justice.

For more information on the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) and membership requirements, including application requirements for Temporary Permits, please visit our website at: www.opfa.ca

This document has been developed to give guidance to members and the public with respect to the scope of practice of professional forestry so that the public interest, and the public expectation of the profession, is served and protected.