



Important notice for Provisional Members:
Implementation of the 2017 Certification Standards
for the Profession of Forestry in Canada.

As you may know, Provisional Members who have not graduated from a Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB) accredited program are required to undergo a competency assessment to apply for Full or Associate Membership. These competency assessments review your educational qualifications and work/volunteer experience to determine which of the competencies that make up the Certification Standards you can currently demonstrate, and whether you have any competency gaps that you need to fill before you are ready to become a Full (R.P.F.) or Associate (Associate R.P.F.) Member.

Currently, the [2008 Certification Standards](#) are in use for competency assessments. If you are already working on completing your self-assessment matrix for your competency assessment, it is for the competencies listed in the 2008 Certification Standards.

The 2017 Certification Standards were approved by the Councils of the member organisations of the Forest Professional Regulators of Canada (FPRC; formerly CFPFA) in 2017. Following approval by the Regulator's Councils work began to implement them in both the CFAB accreditation process and the Credential Assessment Process (CAP). The 2017 Certification Standards are now being used by the CFAB in their accreditation process for educational institutions and will be implemented for use in the competency assessment processes beginning in 2021.

[You can view the 2017 Certification Standards here.](#)

Note that applicants for Full Membership who are not graduates of a CFAB accredited program will be required to demonstrate that they meet the competency requirements of Standards 1 through 7, and one of the Standard 8 streams (8A-8E). The choice of Standard 8 that you make does not place additional limitations to the work you will be able to do as an R.P.F. (i.e. you will work within the competencies you have).

Associate Member applicants will continue to be required to demonstrate that they meet those competencies that are identified as required for their proposed scope of practice.

What does this mean for you?

If you are a graduate of a program that is accredited by the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB)

This change will not affect your requirements to become an R.P.F.

If you are a graduate of a program that is not accredited by the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB)

If you are applying for Full Membership or Associate Membership with a broad scope of practice (CAP required) and;

- **You have already undergone the CAP:**
 - This change will not affect your requirements. Your assessment remains valid, and you will continue to gap fill using the competencies listed in your CAP report based on the 2008 Certification Standards.
- **You have not yet undergone the CAP:**
 - In January, 2021 you will be able to get access to the new CAP database. If you submit your portfolio for assessment for the April 1st, 2021 CAP submission date you will be able to submit your materials:
 - Using the current self-assessment matrix process and the 2008 Certification Standards,
OR
 - Using the new database system and the 2017 Certification Standards.
 - After April 1st, 2021 all CAP portfolios must be submitted using the new database system and the 2017 Certification Standards.

If you are applying for Associate Membership with a limited scope of practice (where CAP is not required) and;

- **You have already undergone competency assessment by the Registration Committee:**
 - This change will not affect your requirements. Your assessment remains valid, and you will continue to fill any identified competency gaps using the competencies listed in your competency assessment report based on the 2008 Certification Standards.
- **You have had your proposed scope of practice and the required competencies approved by the Registration Committee, but you have not yet submitted your materials for competency assessment by the Registration Committee:**
 - This change will not affect your requirements. Your proposed scope of practice and the required competencies remain valid. You may continue working on your self-assessment matrix and materials based on the required competencies for your scope

(which are from the 2008 Certification Standards) to submit for competency assessment by the Registration Committee.

- **You have not yet submitted your proposed scope of practice and required competencies for approval by the Registration Committee:**
 - You will continue to work on developing your proposed scope of practice and identifying the required competencies as normal.
 - To be as consistent as possible with the national changeover (occurring after April 2021), the 2017 Certification Standards will be implemented in the process for Associate Membership with a limited scope of practice (where CAP is not required) after the May 13th Registration Committee meeting.
 - This means that the current process and forms remain in place until that date, using the 2008 Certification Standards. If you submit your Proposed Scope of Practice Development Form for the July 8th 2021 Registration Committee meeting, or any meeting after that, you will need to complete the new Proposed Scope of Practice Development Form which will use the 2017 Certification Standards. This form will be provided via the OPFA website in May 2021.
 - The required competencies for the 4 Associate Member Standard Scopes of Practice will also be revised to use the 2017 Certification Standards and will be provided on the OPFA website in May 2021.

If you have any questions about how the implementation of the 2017 Certification Standards in 2021 will affect you, please contact Louise, the OPFA Registration Manager, at registration.manager@opfa.ca.