

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS RULES.

- (e) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the applicant.

Article 2. Applications.**1620. Applications.**

- (a) Applications for registration as a professional forester or as a certified specialist shall be:
- (1) Filed on a form prescribed by the Board
 - (2) Filed at the Sacramento office of the Board, and accompanied by the required application fee.
 - (3) Subscribed and certified to “under penalty of perjury” as provided by Section 2015.5, Code of Civil Procedure.
 - (4) Typewritten, except that applicants located without access to typewriters, may so state, and submit applications printed legibly by hand.

1620.1. Professional and Personal References.

An applicant shall include in the application for registration the names and addresses of two qualified foresters as references, who are familiar with the professional work and three responsible members of the community who are not foresters who can attest to the character and business integrity of the applicant. Such references may be consulted by the examining committee regarding the qualifications of the applicant.

1620.2. Application Processing.

(a) The applicant shall be informed in writing by the Executive Officer, within 90 days of receipt of the application, whether such application is complete and accepted for filing or is deficient and what specific information is required. The Examining Committee may, at a later time, request clarification of information contained in the application or supporting documents as provided in 1620.3.

(b) The applicant shall be informed, in writing, of the Board decision on registration within 360 days of filing. Postponement of the examination by the applicants shall extend this deadline in the same amount of time as the postponement.

(c) The actual minimum, median and maximum processing times for an application from the time of receipt of the application until the board makes a final decision on the application are:

- (1) Minimum: 118 days
- (2) Median: 152 days
- (3) Maximum: 360 days

1620.3 Evidence of Qualifying Experience.

(a) The application, and any supporting documentation, shall present evidence of qualifying experience in forestry work, and any educational degree(s) substituted therefor:

(b) The qualifying experience for registration shall be **computed** to the final application filing date for each examination.

(c) Applicants claiming credit under educational provisions shall document such claims with an official transcript of record or comparable document or certified copy thereof, issued by the educational institution awarding the degree. Such records or transcripts shall be sent by the institution directly to the Board.

1621. Evaluation of Qualification to Take the Examination.

In complying with Sections 768 and 769(b) of the Code, the standards set forth in Sections 1621.1, 1621.2, 1621.3, 1621.4, 1622, and 1622.2 of this article are used to evaluate qualifications for authorization to take the exam.

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS RULES.**1621.1. Qualifying Forestry Work Experiences.**

(a) “Forestry work,” within the meaning of Section 769 of the Code, includes those activities which demonstrate professional competence in the science, art, and practice of managing and using for human benefit while protecting the public interest, the natural resources that occur on and in association with, forest land.

(b) Forestry experience qualifying to take the exam shall demonstrate an increasing level of responsibility and complexity over the required time, and is more particularly classified as:

(1) Forest management, which includes that branch of forestry concerned with overall administration in forest economics, legal and social aspects; forest mensuration, forest regulation, and the development of access for protection and management of the resource.

(2) Silviculture, which includes the science and practice of controlling the composition, constitution, and growth of forests, including also stand improvement, forest nursery production, the techniques of seeding and planting, and reforestation.

(3) Forest protection, which includes the prevention and control of damage to forests, inclusive of control of forest pests; the prevention and control of wildfire; the protection of soils from erosion, and the reduction and repair of damage resulting from all of these and those related to climatic agent. Up to two years of the activities in this subsection qualify except when Section 1622(c) are met.

(4) Forest utilization which includes scaling, and logging involving felling, bucking, choker setting, and Skidding/Yarding. Up to two years of the activities in this subsection qualify except when Section 1622 of this article applies: additional time can qualify when conditions in 1622(c) are met.

(5) Forest and watershed management planning, initiated and carried out in:

(A) forest working plans,

(B) forest practice standards,

(C) management contracts,

(D) litigation reports and testimony,

(E) trespass,

(F) the development, maintenance and protection of wildlife habitat and forest range resources,

(G) forest recreation and environmental studies, and

(H) reconnaissance and mapping in conservation of forest and watershed lands and the yield thereof, including the investigation of wildlands soils.

(6) Other forest activities, including timber appraisals, forestry research, urban forestry, and teaching college or university courses in forestry.

1621.2. Non-Qualifying Forestry-Related Work Experience.

Some forestry-related activities are not considered “forestry work” experience within the meaning of Section 769 of the Code: landscape gardening; horticulture; arboriculture; tree surgery; loading and hauling of logs or other forest products, operations of wood manufacturing or remanufacturing plants; fire lookouts, dispatchers, and fire equipment operators; and agricultural pursuits not related to tree growing.

1621.3. Work Experience Obtained While In a Degree Program.

The following criteria applies to substitutions for forestry work experience toward the seven year requirement. No combination of education and work experience may be counted as more than twelve (12) months for any consecutive twelve month period. Thus, periods worked while in a substituted educational degree program do not qualify because this time is already included in the degree. Work periods that exceed the amount of degree time substituted do qualify.

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS RULES.**1621.4. Substitution of Education for Experience.**

(a) For the purpose of this article and in accordance with Section 769(b) of the Code, a course of study shall be deemed a major in forestry only (1) if the awarding institution specifically designated the course of study as a major in forestry or a direct derivative thereof such as a major in forest management or a major in forest science, and (2) if it provides the significant concepts in a working knowledge of forest biology, forestry in the social context, forest resources inventory, forest ecosystem management, and forest resources administration. The forest courses presenting such concepts and working knowledge shall be at a level qualifying for transfer credit in a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in forestry at either the University of California, Berkeley, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, or at Humboldt State University.

In accordance with these standards, a “major in forestry” for the purposes of this act are majors in forestry offered in California, at the University of California, Berkeley, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, and Humboldt State University and the programs in forestry offered in other states, which meet the above standards including such programs offered at universities accredited at the time of applicant graduation by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) as of their most current list. The list(s) may be obtained from Professional Foresters Registration, or SAF, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814-2198.

(b) The following degrees are deemed the equivalent of four years of forestry experience:

- (1) A Bachelor of Science degree with a Major in Forestry, or possession of a Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree from any college or university in the United States or Canada.
- (2) A degree in forestry, however designated, from a foreign college or university based on completion of a program of at least four years of university level work with a major in forestry, subject to review and favorable recommendation of the Examining Committee.
- (3) A Master of Forestry degree awarded an applicant who holds either a Bachelor of Science degree or a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in a field other than forestry may submit such evidence as a comparable degree to the Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree.

(c) The Committee shall evaluate and determine, on a case-by-case basis, which other college or university degrees may be substituted as qualifying forestry work experience. In no case can any of the following be combined for more than four years substitution.

(1) A Bachelor of Science degree in a forestry-related field is not equivalent to a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in forestry. No more than two (2) years shall be substituted for such forestry-related fields including, but not limited to , wood science and technology, wildlife management, range management, soil science or conservation of natural resources.

(2) A Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy degree in forestry or forestry-related fields can be substituted only when subsection 1621.4(b) of this article does not apply. No more than one (1) year for each of these degrees shall be substituted. A Master of Forestry degree is substituted for only one (1) year unless subsection 1621.4 (b)(3) of this article applies.

(3) An Associate of Science or Associate of Arts with a “major in forestry” from one of the two-year colleges recognized at the time of applicant graduation by the Society of American Foresters can be substituted for two (2) years’ experience. The lists(s) may be obtained from Professional Foresters Registration, or SAF, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814-2198.

1622. Three Years of “Having Charge of Forestry Work,” or “Under the Supervision of a Person Registered.”

(a) The minimum of three (3) years “having charge of forestry work,” or “forestry work under the supervision of a person registered, or qualified for, but exempt from registration” as specified in Sections 757 and 769(b) of the Code is evaluated using the criteria in subsection (b), below.

(b) “Supervision” shall be deemed adequate to meet the three year requirement if it includes the following elements:

(1) Supervisor is able to hire and fire or effectively recommend same, or is able to clearly withdraw professional responsibility for forestry related matters.

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(2) Supervisor must perform regular and timely quality control, work review and inspection, both in the office and in the field, and be able to take, or effectively recommend, corrective actions where necessary. The frequency of review, inspection and guidance shall take into consideration the experience of the non-RPF and technical complexity of the job, but shall be sufficiently frequent to ensure the accomplishment of work to professional standards.

(c) The following limitations apply to the requirement of three years “having charge of forestry work,” or “under the supervision of a person registered.”

(1) Forestry work stated in subsection 1621.1(b)(3) and 1621.1(b)(4) of this article must be performed at planning and supervision levels; scaling does not qualify unless it is part of an apprentice trainee program under the direct supervision of an RPF.

(2) Only the Master of Forestry degree, in conjunction with a qualifying Bachelor of Science degree with a major in forestry, may be substituted for one of the three years required as provided in Section 769 of the Code.

1622.2. Contracting Forestry Work Experience.

Forestry experience obtained while working as a contractor may be claimed as having charge of forestry work, or forestry work under the supervision of a person registered, or qualified but exempt from, registration provided:

(a) The applicant submits a copy of the contract and any documentation necessary to verify the appropriateness of experience.

(b) The contract required the work of the contractor to be supervised as stated in Section 1622(b) of this article.

(c) The contract or documentation specifies the various items of supervision including, but not limited to: training; frequency of contact both for professional and contract compliance purposes; office and field review; and how corrective actions can be taken.

(d) The contract or documentation has the names, current addresses, and phone numbers of each qualified forester who directly carries out this supervision. If the supervisor is Registered, the license number must be included.

1626. Denial of Application.

If, in the judgment of the committee, based upon the evidence submitted, the applicant lacks the required qualifications, the committee shall deny the application without prejudice. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the reasons for denial and of the right to appeal such denial as provided in Section 1647 of this article.

1628. Abandoned Applications.

In the absence of special circumstances, the Board shall consider an application abandoned when:

(a) The applicant fails to submit a registration fee or specialty fee within sixty (60) days of the date of the letter of acceptance for registration or certification.

(b) The applicant fails to appear for a scheduled examination at the time set without obtaining an approved postponement.

(c) The applicant, after two postponements, fails to appear for the examination at the appointed time.

Article 2.5. Applications for Registration Without Examination.

[No sections]

Article 3. Examinations

1640. Notification of Authorization to Take Examination.

Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the examination, each applicant qualified to take the exam shall be notified in writing of the date, time, and place of the examination.