Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

"EXAM FEE AMENDMENTS, 2026"

Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR)

Division 1.5, Chapter 10

Articles 1 & 2

§ 1605. Fees.

(a) All fees required by provisions of the Code and rules of the Board shall be transmitted by money order, bank draft, credit card, or check and shall be made payable to Professional Foresters Registration.

(b) The following schedule of fees is hereby adopted pursuant to section 782 of the Code.

(1) Application for Registration and License as a Professional Forester . . .$~~200~~450

(2) Annual Rate for License as a Professional Forester 210

(3) Application for Exam for Specialty Certificate 200

(4) Annual rate for Specialty Certificate 100

(5) Duplicate License or Specialty Certificate 25

(6) Renewal of License as a Professional Forester 420

(7) Renewal of Specialty Certificate 200

(8) Penalty fee for failure to apply for renewal as a Licensee or for a specialty certificate is $25 for each full month of delinquency not to exceed $150.00 total penalty fee. 25

(9) Reinstatement Application following Withdrawal 50

(10) Renewal of License for Professional Foresters with 30 or more years of registration as a Professional Forester. 320

(c) The renewal fee for registration and/or certification as a forestry specialist shall be waived when a license or certificate is issued less than ninety (90) days before the date on which it will expire.

(d) Application fees for registration, certification as a forestry specialist, or reinstatement following withdrawal, shall be retained by the Board regardless of the disposition of the application.

(e) The Professional Foresters Examining Committee shall review, at least once every five years, the availability of funds necessary to administer this Chapter (Chapter 10 of Division 1.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations) and recommend any fee changes necessary for continued administration.

Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 767 and 782, Public Resources Code.

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 identification for cutting or removal or both of hazard trees on Forested Landscapes; 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 conditions in 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 conditions in 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~~ timber appraisals including 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.

~~**(7)** Arboriculture on Forested Landscapes for public safety. Up to two years of the activities in this subsection qualify. This work does not qualify as "having charge of forestry work, or forestry work under the supervision of a person registered, or qualified for, but exempt from, registration under the provision of this article" pursuant to Public Resources Code section 769.~~

(c) For purposes of forestry-related employment, a portion of which includes duties that do not constitute qualifying forestry work experience: when evaluating an applicant's eligibility for examination, the committee [PFEC] may make reasonable adjustments, to reduce the time credited for such employment, based on documentation provided by the applicant.

Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 769, Public Resources Code.

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

~~when it is not conducted on Forested Landscapes~~ ~~for the purposes of public safety~~; 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.

Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 769, Public Resources Code.

1621.5. Supervision Defined

Supervision, as used in PRC §769 and 14 CCR §1622, means the exercise of independent professional judgment by a Registered Professional Forester over a candidate's forestry work, including review and approval of decisions related to forest management, silviculture, or environmental compliance, with regular documented oversight in field and office settings.

Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 769, Public Resources Code.

1622. Three Years of "Having Charge of Forestry Work," or "Forestry Work 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.

(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. Work identifying hazard trees for cutting or removing or both for forest protection does not qualify.

(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.

Note: Authority cited: Section 759, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 769, Public Resources Code.

1622.2. Contracting Forestry Work Experience.

Forestry experience obtained while working ~~as a contractor~~ under contract 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, and employer of each qualified forester who directly carries out this supervision. If the supervisor is Registered, the license number must be included.

Additional submitted documentation may include, but is not limited to the following:

(1) Specifications on the qualifying activities and the supervised candidate's role.

(2) Information detailing the frequency and nature of RPF supervision.

(3) Documentation of the candidate's projects, roles, hours, and oversight, ensuring compliance with 14 CCR §1622(b).

(4) A signed statement from the supervising RPF verifying the supervision of qualifying work experience.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 759 and 768, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 769, Public Resources Code.