

2013 RFT Registration Exam

This package contains the exam questions and key points (in italics) listed after each question that may be used or referenced for developing good answers. This list of key points is meant to provide direction to members on areas for further study in regards to the exam questions. It is not meant to be a definitive answer to each question and a candidate may well come up with other valid points.

Question 1 (Short answer)

Streams and associated riparian areas house many values, practising professional forest technologists need to be familiar with those values and the associated legislation that governs the conditions of crossings. Given a crossing of a fish bearing stream, requiring a 15 metre span, describe the related legislation, and professionals who need to be involved in order to achieve goal of a certified installation that mitigates potential stream impacts and which achieve a high level of due diligence in addressing stream values.

a) What values need to be considered by professionals designing stream crossings?

(2 marks)

An answer will consider variety of values, at a minimum an answer should include note on values such as: water quality, riparian habitat values, in-stream fish population, public safety, provision for the type and duration of specified access.

Additionally, downstream values such as domestic water use, downstream fish populations as well as the possibility of archeological values could be noted for higher marks

b) What legislation applies?

(2 marks)

An answer should at a minimum describe the legislation that would give the authority to do a crossing, including:

- *Forest Act as it relates to tenure, cutting permits and road permits*
- *Land Act for a licence of occupation if that applies*
- *Water Act, for authorization of in stream works*
- *Foresters Act that enables RPFs or RFT's to oversee the and coordinate the in-stream work as the coordinating resource professional*
- *FRPA that describe the steps needed to demonstrate due diligence in terms of surrounding values*
- *Fisheries Act, for protecting in stream fish populations and specific habitat.*
- *Since excavation will be required, the Heritage Conservation act has a role in protecting potential archeological values*
- *Engineers and Geoscientist Act, would govern the work of engineering design, installation control and final certification of the structure*

c) What are your professional obligations?

(4 marks)

2013 RFT Registration Exam

An answer would include the notes on making sure the authority to do the in stream work has been established. Work within your scope of practice and understand the role of the coordinating resource professional. Display due diligence in coordinating the full assessment of the crossing, by engaging other specialists for values outside your scope of practice such as fish habitat, stream hydrology bridge structure engineering. Overseeing and documenting the work throughout the process and being held accountable by signing as the coordinating resource professional.

Answer could consider:

- 11.3.10 Regard for safety of others. Conducts prework - identify hazards and risk to workers.

Discusses countermeasures/ strategies to reduce hazard and risk.

- 11.4.1 Maintain Standards in conduct and daily work. No short cuts, instills confidence in profession by high standards in conduct and daily work. Attention to detail, through despite having no formal check list.

- 11.4.4 Not misrepresenting facts. No fabrication of working documents.

- 11.4.5 To sign documents. Supervisor to sign and date pre-work map and pre-work documentation.

- 12.2.2 Ensure that work is complete, correct and clear. Self-explanatory.

- 12.5 Due diligence by being prudent and doing all work with constant and careful attention. Self-explanatory.

-12.7.1 Safety - considers safe work practices of workers and considers safety of other. Right to refuse unsafe work.

d) What other professionals need to be involved in the design and construction type of crossing?

(2 marks)

Biologists for fish habitat assessment and in stream fish population inventories, as well they may be involved as environmental monitors during the installation.

Certified Archeologist may be involved in an archeological assessment of the site prior to and during excavation

Professional Engineer for the design of the crossing, certification of materials such as lock blocks, rip rap, crushed aggregates, superstructure etc. installation inspections, final certification of the structure.

2013 RFT Registration Exam

Question 2 (Short answer and essay)

You meet a logging contractor on site for a pre-work meeting. You regularly use this contractor and have had many pre-work meetings with them in similar areas. Your usual work truck is in the shop and you realize that you do not have your pre-work forms as you arrive on site. You do have copies of the logging plan map and decide to continue with the meeting as everyone and the equipment is ready to go and your office is 3+ hours away. You review safety hazards, procedures, discuss strategies, and get the contractor started. You decide to take some notes on the back of your field map. You observe for a while to ensure things are going well and then leave with the intention of completing the formal checklist when you get back to the office. Upon arriving at the office you learn that there was a serious accident on the site, a WorkSafe investigator is enroute and has requested to see all documentation regarding the safety plan and pre-work as part of the investigation.

- a) Would this be an appropriate professional field review, explain why or why not? **(2 marks)** (short answer)

Answer yes with qualifiers that the pre-work reviewed the elements of safety hazards, procedures, discussed strategies and that the items are documented. No, if there is no documentation made.

- b) In this situation how would you document your field prework? **(3 marks)** (short answer)

Answer should at a minimum:

- identify and record the hazards discussed on the worksite.*
- discuss and record procedures and/or strategies for safety and EMS. Reference made to the safety plan sections if applicable.*
- example: location and communications for evacuation, medical emergencies, calling methods.*
- Be signed and dated by both parties on the site.*

Recognize that this could be considered as appropriate documentation if done correctly.

- c) As the supervising forest professional, explain what Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice you would consider and how they would apply in this situation? **(5 marks)** (essay)

Answer should consider

- 11.3.10 Regard for safety of others. Conducts pre-work - identify hazards and risk to workers. Discusses countermeasures/strategies to reduce hazard and risk.

- 11.4.1 Maintain Standards in conduct and daily work. No short cuts, instills confidence in profession by high standards in conduct and daily work. Attention to detail, through despite having no formal check list.

- 11.4.4 Not misrepresent facts. No fabrication of working documents.

2013 RFT Registration Exam

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- 11.4.5 *To sign documents. Supervisor to sign and date prework map and prework documentation.*
- 12.2.2 *Ensure that work is complete, correct and clear. Self-explanatory.*
- 12.5 *Due diligence by being prudent and doing all work with constant and careful attention. Self-explanatory.*
- 12.7.1 *Safety - considers safe work practices of workers and considers safety of other. Right to refuse unsafe work.*

2013 RFT Registration Exam

Question 3 (Short answer)

Given the importance the government has placed on First Nations values, practising professional forest technologists need to be familiar with government policy directives and available tools related to Aboriginal values and consultation. Consider the following scenario:

While doing field reconnaissance work for a site which will have some future development activity, you discover some cedar trees which have evidence of axe marks and potentially bore holes as well as some mounds which do not appear to be natural formations. The area is known to be a location where First Nations trade routes and scattered settlements have existed in the past. In exercising due diligence in this situation, describe the following:

- a) Describe the initial steps to be taken in the field.

(2 marks)

Without disturbing the site, document the location and features found there including written field note descriptions and picture evidence. Inform your supervisor of the find.

- b) Describe the next steps to be taken in order to demonstrate due diligence in identifying and conserving the First Nations values you perceive to be present at the site.

(8 marks)

Consult the FLNRO Aboriginal Advisor

The consultative areas database (CAD) which allows users to identify an area of interest and have First Nations contact information returned. It is common that there will be multiple bands who have overlapping interests in an area.

An Archeological Overview Assessment (AOA) can be requested for a given area from the FLNRO Arch Branch. This assessment will identify the likelihood of First Nations use in the area of interest.

Determine if the First Nations groups identifies through a CAD search have been contacted for input to the proposed development and where there any comments made and have any mitigation measures been described as part of the development proposal.

Contact the FLNRO Aboriginal Advisor, inform him/her of your find and ask direction for further work needed.

Engage a certified archeologist to undertake an archeological assessment of the site to identify the potential First Nations values and prescribe mitigation measures for the future development proposal.

2013 RFT Registration Exam

Question 4 (Short answer and essay)

- a) List four conditions that must be met for a formal complaint of unprofessional conduct. **(4 marks)** (short answer)

1. *The complaint concerns an ABCFP member or former member.*
2. *Sufficient information has been provided to allow an investigation to proceed.*
3. *The allegations involve a breach of the Foresters Act, the ABCFP bylaws or the resolutions of the association (including policies and guidelines).*
4. *The parties cannot resolve the matter on a reasonable and appropriate basis*

- b) Tell us why a member must report unprofessional activities of other members. **(6 marks)** (essay)

First, wide scale failure to report unprofessional activities of members puts the association itself at risk of losing its self-governing status since members are not carrying out their responsibilities to the public and risk losing public confidence. Without public confidence a profession is not entitled to regulate itself.

Second, a member's failure to report demonstrates a disregard by the member for the profession and other members. Allowing unprofessional conduct to continue sullies the reputation of every member of the profession. This disregard can undermine the confidence of the members in the association and ultimately the effectiveness of the organization. Members are best positioned to recognize when potential breaches of professional duty occur.

Third, when a member is aware of a possible breach of professional practice and chooses not to react, that member is breaching the Code of Ethics. This could lead to disciplinary action being taken against the member by the association for breach of the Code of Ethics.

2013 RFT Registration Exam

Question 5 (Short answer)

You are an RFT working for a consultant and doing layout for your client who has a Non-Replaceable Forest Licence (NRFL). You are working in an area where forest licence tenures overlap. You have been directed by your client to develop a new cutblock in an area impacted by mountain pine beetle. You have done a review of the maps and aerial photos and notice that the area you are laying out is a large leave strip that is surrounded by old, previously harvested blocks. While locating the block boundary you find fresh ribbons and blazed falling corners with metal tags. Upon reading a metal tag you notice that the work was done by another local consultant the day before. You know that your client is badly in need of this wood and your boss has told you that they want to submit this block for approval as soon as possible. You believe that you were here first since you have been working in the area for a number of months, have never seen anyone else and have invested considerable time and money into this block, so you decide to ignore the ribboning and tags and submit the layout to your client. The client then submits the block for approval in FTAS. Sometime later your client gets a call from another licensee accusing your company of stealing their layout. The other licensee then lodges a professional complaint against you and your boss.

- a) What do you tell your boss about what happened?

(1 mark)

Tell the boss what happened (the truth) – the date you saw the ribbon, falling corners and metal tags and that you decided to ignore these indicators.

- b) What should a professional do when they find another person's layout and are aware of a potential overlap of professional work such as this?

(3 marks)

On finding another person's layout, a member should as soon as practicably possible; (i) let their boss or employer know what they have found; (ii) if they know who did the work contact the person who did the work; (iii) have a respectful professional discussion with the other person and try to reach an agreement on how to proceed; (iv) contact the Practice Advisory Service for advice if the situation cannot be sorted out between the parties.

- c) What sections of our Act and Bylaws have you potentially violated?

(3 marks)

*There is a potential violation of the Foresters Act since the member may have exhibited conduct unbecoming of a member. This is definition includes conduct that **"brings or may bring the association or its members into disrepute"***

There are potential violations to Bylaw 11 the code of ethics and Bylaw 12 the standards of professional practice as follows:

Bylaw 11.4.1 - To inspire confidence in the profession by maintaining high standards in conduct and daily work.

Bylaw 11.5.1 - To act conscientiously and diligently in providing professional services.

2013 RFT Registration Exam

Bylaw 12.4.1 - Members, in private life, professional practice, or outside professional activities, always conduct themselves honourably and in ways which sustain and enhance their professional integrity and the integrity of the profession as a whole.

Bylaw 12.5.1 - Members exercise due diligence by being prudent and doing all work with constant and careful attention.

- d) Explain whether your boss is or is not professionally accountable for your work.

(3 marks)

Registered Forest Technologists are entitled to engage in professional forestry practice under the "direct supervision of a registered professional forester" unless they are independently carrying out aspects of professional forestry practice that is within their scope of practice and authority. As a RFT, 'operations' is within your scope of practice and authority and therefore the member is to be held professionally accountable his/her work. A qualifier to this consistent with Bylaws 6.1.2.1 and 11.3.7 is the situation where the member may not be professionally competent in performing the activity and thus requires supervision.

There are 3 potential scenarios; (i) your boss is not a professional; (ii) your boss is an ABCFP member; (iii) your boss is a member of another professional body.

In scenario (i) your boss is not professionally accountable since he or she is not a member of a professional body.

In scenario (ii) your boss is professionally accountable for your work if he/she is your supervisor.

Under the ABCFP guidelines on professional supervision he/she has professional accountability for the work supervised as a 'coordinating professional.' If your boss is not your supervisor and there is another employee who supervises you, then your boss may not have professional responsibility for your work.

In scenario (iii) your boss is accountable under the professional regulations and guidelines of the professional body that he or she belongs to.

2013 RFT Registration Exam

Question 6 (Short answer)

There was a 150 ha wildfire that started from an active 60 ha harvest block that consisted of 10-year dead, mountain pine beetle killed lodgepole pine; the fire is just now extinguished. The fire area is located only 20 km from town, close to a popular recreation area.

As an RFT, you have been asked by your employer, a major forest licensee, to prepare a wildfire rehabilitation plan and lead a team to field implement the layout of the plan. Once the plan is laid out, you are to hire heavy equipment contractors and implement this plan to completion.

- a) What Bylaw(s) identify safety obligations for your work? **(1 mark)**

Bylaw 11.3.10 - To have proper regard in all work for the safety of others. Bylaw 12.7.1 Members maintain safe work practices and consider the safety of workers and others in the practice of professional forestry.

- b) Name 3 general groups of people whose safety you have to consider in your work on this project? **(3 marks)**

The crew doing the lay out, ensure the design will be safe for the contractors that carry out the plan and the general public that may use the area.

- c) List two safety considerations for each group named in B) **(6 marks)**

Layout crew – general work safety; PPE, check ins, weather, travel, any identified hazards from the fire, etc.

Contractors – MPB killed trees/danger trees, steep slopes for equipment, soil slippage/slide hazards, water drainage structures, other identified hazards.

Public – Danger trees next to access roads, soil slippage/slide hazards, water drainage structures, other.

2013 RFT Registration Exam

Question 7 (Essay)

The ABCFP Guidelines on Scope of Practice for Registered Forest Technologists tells us that “a professional is qualified when he/she has both legal authority and competence.”

State one professional task from the RFT Scope of Practice in one independent area of practice; forest measurements, silviculture, forest operations or forest protection, that you will do once you're an RFT. In your own words describe why this is professional work that requires a Registered Forest Technologist and tell us how you meet the legal authority and the competence to be considered a qualified professional for this task. **(10 marks)**

Professional Work is defined in Section 1, definitions, of the Foresters Act. The work described as professional must meet this definition. As well there is descriptions of professional work described in the “Guidelines – Scope of Practice for Forest Technologists 2010” that could be used as an answer.

Authority is a legally assigned level of “right to practise.” It cannot be accepted unless it has been assigned. It is assigned to ABCFP members based on education (diploma), internship (two years as a TFT) and examination (pass this exam), assigned by council. Must indicate how they have obtained authority.

Competence is defined as knowledge (through gaining your diploma, extra/specific course at work or outside of your diploma), and skill acquired through education (on the job instruction) and experience (doing the work and being evaluated by others). Must indicate how they obtained competence.