



File: 1460-06/FORE
Cliff: 104294

January 19, 2007

To: All BCTS Registrants

This year marked a significant improvement in the safety record for BC's forest workers. BC Timber Sales is proud to be part of that improvement. We fully support the need to ensure this trend becomes entrenched into the future.

In an earlier communiqué, we outlined the development of the BC Forest Safety Council's SAFE Company program and informed you that all persons or companies working in the BC Timber Sales program would need to be certified as a SAFE company, when the program was operational.

Included with this letter, you will find a letter and a brochure from Tanner Elton, CEO of the BC Forest Safety Council (Safety Council) outlining how to become registered with the Safety Council and their SAFE Company program. The brochure has additional information on the Safety Council along with website links and contact phone numbers. Questions on the work of the Safety Council or any of its programs are best directed to that organisation.



BC Timber Sales is implementing a revised safety program to meet its specific operational needs as an organisation relative to the SAFE Company BASE standard and plans to be audited in the summer of 2007. BC Timber Sales expects to be fully certified as a SAFE company in 2007.

We believe the SAFE Company program is now at a stage where we can move to require participation for those working on licences or contracts issued by BC Timber Sales. Effective April 1, 2007, all new timber sale licences and specified contracts advertised by BC Timber Sales will require that all persons or companies working on the timber sale licence or contract be registered with the Safety Council in the SAFE Company program. At this time, BC Timber Sales will not apply this requirement to existing timber sales or contracts, but we do require companies working on these licences or contracts to implement safety programs that meet WorkSafeBC requirements. We also encourage these companies to voluntarily engage in the SAFE Company program to improve forest sector safety.

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**Ministry of
Forests and Range**

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BC Timber Sales

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The Safety Council requires that companies registered in the SAFE Company program complete the required certification audits within six months of registration. BCTS will monitor the progress of the SAFE Company program implementation. We plan to make it mandatory before the end of 2007 for persons or companies working on new BCTS timber sale licences or specified contracts to be fully SAFE certified in order to work on these operations.

BC Timber Sales subscribes to the BC Forest Sector Health and Safety Accord and its principles. We believe that, by ensuring BCTS program participants operate as SAFE companies, we will continue to entrench an improved safety culture in the forest industry and make it a safer place for forest workers.

I encourage you to direct any questions on BC Timber Sales requirements for SAFE company registration to your local timber sales manager.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Peterson".

Dave Peterson, RFP
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Timber Sales

Enclosure(s): BC Forest Safety Council Letter – Tanner Elton
Be a Safe Company Brochure

pc: Tanner Elton, BC Forest Safety Council
Don Dahr, Worksafe BC
Michael Paine, Worksafe BC
Tim Sheldon, ADM, Operations, Ministry of Forests and Range