

BC Timber Sales Contractors

Dear Contractor:

The BC Timber Sales (BCTS) commitment to safe work sites and improving forest worker safety took another significant step forward in August 2008, when our organization achieved certification under the Safety Accord Forestry Enterprise (SAFE) Companies Program of the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC).

Currently, we are less than three months away from the date (December 31, 2008) when all BCTS contracts advertised will have requirements for SAFE Company certification. This communiqué is a follow-up to an earlier letter in which the specific requirements for SAFE Company certification were provided. In general these requirements are:

- All parties bidding on contracts will need to be SAFE Company certified to be eligible to bid, unless the contract or bidder is specifically exempted in writing by an appropriate authority.
- If a contractor loses their certification while under contract with BCTS, they will be expected to diligently pursue re-certification in a timely manner. In addition, option-to-renew contracts will consider the certification status of a contractor.
- All subcontractors will need to be SAFE Company certified and maintain this certification to the same expectations as for the principal contractor.
- All Independent Owner Operators interested in working under contract for BCTS should move quickly toward completion of training and certification to ensure they are eligible to bid on contracts effective January 1, 2009.
- New entrants to the forest industry will be eligible to bid on BCTS contracts by obtaining an 'Endorsement as a new industry entrant' from BCFSC which includes a commitment to SAFE Company certification. However, new entrants will not be able to subcontract or function as prime contractors until they are SAFE Company certified.
- Parties certified under other systems may be eligible for exemption from SAFE Company certification if the Timber Sales Manager (TSM) determines that expecting SAFE Company certification would be too onerous for the firm to maintain. In considering such an exemption the TSM will reflect on the degree to which the other system will support the safety diligence of BCTS. Such exemptions will have to be in place before bidding and may be issued with conditions.

While the SAFE Companies Program (SCP) of the BCFSC has been in place for only two years, as of September 30, 2008, some 951 firms have achieved certification. There has been a steady increase in the number of SAFE Companies certified, with about one-third of small and large forest industry employers in British Columbia now having reached this

important milestone. You can find more information about the program on the BCFSC website at <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/>.

Industry-wide participation in the SCP is central to its strength and we encourage contractors to pass this information along to your sub-contractors and other parties you feel would be interested and should have this information.

Please contact me, if you have any questions about BCTS requirements for SAFE Company certification or about our safety program.

Yours truly,

Timber Sales Manager
Business Area
BC Timber Sales