**02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**

**333 BOARD OF LICENSURE OF FORESTERS**

**Chapter 80: CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION**

**Summary**: This chapter establishes the minimum continuing education required for license renewal.

**1. Nature and Amount**

 Each forester and intern forester shall certify at time of license renewal to completion of 6 hours of continuing forestry education during the preceding license term as set forth in this chapter. Continuing forestry education may consist of any of the following:

 **Category 1** Organized course work, technical sessions, seminars, courses or workshops, or activity in forestry or forestry-related subject matter. One contact hour per clock hour of instruction. A minimum of 4 contact hours must be earned in this category.

 **Category 2** Organized course work, seminars, workshops or technical sessions not specifically forestry related but of direct benefit to a forester, such as business, writing, real estate, etc. One contact hour per clock hour of instruction.

 **Category 3** The development, preparation and presentation of forestry or forestry-related material accomplished for public service. Two contact hours per presentation, regardless of length and inclusive of preparation. Credit may only be awarded once for identical or substantially similar presentations.

 **Category 4** Self-improvement activities of a professional nature such as holding elected or appointed office or active committee assignment in a forestry or closely-allied professional organization, or for serving on national, state or local boards that deal with natural resource and land use issues. One contact hour per year for each position.

 Continuing forestry education contact hours may be earned throughout the world, including in-service courses within organizations. Contact hours reported pursuant to this chapter may also be used to fulfill continuing education requirements of other licenses or certifications held by the forester.

2. **Optional Pre-Approval**

 The sponsor of a category 1 or 2 activity, or a prospective attendee, may request prior approval from the Board as to:

 - The activity’s eligibility for category 1 or 2 status, and

 - The number of contact hours that attendees may report on the Continuing Forestry Education Statement for that activity.

 The sponsor or attendee shall supply such information as the Board may require in order to act on the request.

**3-A. Audit**

 The forester or intern forester’s certification of completion of continuing forestry education is subject to audit pursuant to Chapter 13 of the rules of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, entitled “Uniform Rule for the Substantiation of Continuing Education Requirements.”

**4. Deferment of Continuing Forestry Education**

 A forester or intern forester may request a deferment of continuing forestry education from the Board due to health problems or other extenuating circumstances. The forester must make up the deferred continuing education in the time and manner set forth by the Board.

**4-A. Exemption of Continuing Forestry Education Requirement**

The continuing forestry education requirement of this chapter does not apply to the first license renewal for an intern forester or a forester.

**5. Nonpracticing Foresters**

 This chapter does not apply to a forester who has attained the age of 62 years and practices less than 250 hours per year.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 MRSA §5515(7); 32 MRSA §59-B, as enacted by PL 2001 c. 285, 5506(4), 5514(4)

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