



Faller Certification Backgrounder

Between 1998 and 2002, there were 26 falling-related fatalities and over 1,400 fallers were injured.

The IWA, independent fallers, forest companies, and the WCB jointly developed a strategy to reduce this unacceptable level of fatality and injury. The strategy determined one of the primary causes of falling accidents to be the lack of a standardized comprehensive training program for fallers. The strategy recommended that fallers be trained and certified.

As a result, the BC Faller Training Standard was developed to ensure that all fallers, regardless of where they work, receive the same high-quality training.

BC Faller Training Standard

The BC Faller Training Standard is a training and certification program for fallers that was developed by the forest industry, the IWA, and the WCB to meet the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 26.22.

The goal of the BC Faller Training Standard is to ensure that anyone working as a faller has the knowledge, skills, abilities, work practices, and attitude necessary to work safely and productively.

The program emphasizes three key aspects of a professional faller:

1. Recognizing hazards and completing a risk assessment of each situation — prior to making any cuts — so that the faller is able to formulate a safe and effective falling or bucking plan;
2. Continuously improving workmanship; and
3. Seeking qualified assistance when the faller is unsure of his abilities or requires help.

Faller Certification Process

The BC Faller Training Standard is the foundation for the faller certification process, which is intended to train and certify hand-fallers as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

The Training Standard recognizes two categories of fallers: new fallers and experienced fallers.

New Fallers

To achieve certification, a new faller, having *less* than two years' experience, will be required to complete a New Faller Training Program which consists of a 30-day program and curriculum (10 days class, 20 days field) followed by up to 180 days of falling activity under close supervision, before taking the faller certification exam and field evaluation.

The faller certification process consists of a written or oral examination on safe falling practices and a skills demonstration/evaluation in the field accompanied by a qualified supervisor/trainer. A minimum passing grade of 75 percent is required in each of the written/oral examination and the field evaluation.

Fallers who pass both the written/oral examination and field evaluation will immediately receive a faller's logbook, which will be used to document the faller's work experience and competencies. The Qualified Supervisor/Trainer will provide the exam results to the BC Faller Training Standard & Certification Program who will recognize the accomplishment by sending a Faller's Ticket and wall certificate to the faller.

Experienced Fallers

Fallers having *more* than two years' experience do not need to take the full training program. Until July 31, 2005, they may challenge the training standard exam and receive their log book, wallet card and certificate if they pass.

To date, approximately 800 experienced fallers have successfully been examined and field evaluated and achieved faller certification.

Experienced fallers who wish to challenge the training requirements can obtain an Application Form from the BC Faller website at www.bcfallersafe.org; or their local WCB office; or forms can be requested by calling 1-877-324-1212.

Registration Deadlines and Fees

The following registration fees apply:

- Prior to January 1, 2005 – \$150
- Between January 1 and March 31, 2005 – \$250
- Between April 1 and July 31, 2005 – \$600

No applications will be accepted after July 31, 2005