

POTENTIAL AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE STATUTES FOR DRAFT PROPOSED REGULATIONS

759.

The board may by regulation adopt such rules and regulations pursuant to Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11371) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, as it determines are reasonably necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of this article.

763.

(a) The board shall establish an examining committee of at least seven members composed of the following, who shall be appointed by the board and serve at its pleasure:

(1) Two public members with one selected from the membership of the board.

(2) At least four professional foresters in good standing representing a broad cross section of employment and expertise.

(3) At least one certified specialist registered pursuant to Section 772 in good standing. If a certified specialist is not available to serve on the committee, this position shall be replaced by an additional professional forester in good standing.

(b) The examining committee shall do all of the following:

(1) Examine all applicants for registration as professional foresters and for specialty certificates.

(2) Recommend to the board applicants for the license of professional forester and applicants for specialty certificates who fulfill the requirements of this article.

(3) Review complaints, which review may include independent investigations or expert witness evaluations, and make disciplinary recommendations to the board.

(4) Establish ad hoc committees as needed with representatives of certified specialists.

(5) Recommend to the board whether an independent certification program qualifies for recognition under Section 754.

(6) Recommend adoption of the rules and regulations or changes in rules and regulations which may be needed to effect this article.

(Amended by Stats. 1993, Ch. 784, Sec. 7. Effective January 1, 1994.)

768.

The board shall require an applicant to demonstrate such degree of experience and such general knowledge of the profession of forestry as the board deems necessary for the protection of the public.

(Added by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1300.)

PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS LAW

769.

An applicant shall meet all of the following qualifications:

(a) Be of good moral character and have a good reputation for honesty and integrity.

(b) Furnish evidence of having completed seven years of experience in forestry work.

Possession of a degree of bachelor of science, or equivalent degree as determined by the board, with a major in forestry, shall be deemed equivalent to four years of experience in the actual practice of forestry work.

At least three of the seven years of experience shall include having charge of forestry work, or forestry work under the supervision of a person registered, or qualified for, but exempt from, registration under the provision of this article. Work completed prior to July 1, 1973, shall qualify if it was under the supervision of a qualified forester, as defined in Section 754. The award of a master of forestry degree shall be acceptable as evidence of one year of such qualifying experience.

(c) Has successfully completed such examination or examinations as are prescribed by the board.

(Added by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1300.)

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROPOSED REGULATION FOR ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION
OPTIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE IN SIGNIFICANT CORE CONCEPTS

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS RULES.

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 10. Registration of Professional

Foresters.

Article 2. Applications.

1623. Evidence of Alternative Compliance for Significant Concept Competence.

If applicable, the application shall include evidence of successful completion of a program recognized pursuant to Section 1640.4 to certify professional competence in the significant concepts identified in Section 1640.3. Upon confirmation, the applicant shall be admitted to take the abbreviated examination described in Section 1640.3 that focuses on the working knowledge component of the examination. If the committee is unable to confirm successful completion of the program, an applicant who is otherwise eligible shall still be admitted to sit for the comprehensive examination.

Article 3. Examinations

1640. Notification of Authorization to Take Examination.

Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the examination, each applicant qualified to take the exam shall be notified in writing of the date, time, and place of the examination. The notice shall also identify whether the applicant will be taking the comprehensive or abbreviated examination.

1640.3. Examinations Prescribed.

(a) The examination shall test the applicant's understanding of the significant concept in and working knowledge of multiple subject areas, including a combination each of the following subjects:

- (1) Forest Economics,
- (2) Forest Protection,
- (3) Silviculture,
- (4) Forest Resources Management,
- (5) Forest Resources Use,
- (6) Dendrology,
- (7) Forest Ecology,
- (8) Forest Mensuration,
- (9) Forest Policy, and
- (10) Forest Administration, as these apply to the management of forest lands to produce goods and services, and in terms of the environmental effects of such activities.

(b) An applicant shall separately demonstrate professional competence with respect to both significant core concepts and working knowledge of the subjects identified in this section. The committee shall prepare both a comprehensive and abbreviated examination as needed, as follows:

- (1) For standard applicants, the committee shall prepare a comprehensive examination that tests both the significant core concept and working knowledge components necessary for licensure.
- (2) For applicants who have demonstrated professional competence in significant core concepts by successfully completing a program recognized pursuant to Section 1640.4, the committee shall prepare an abbreviated examination to test the applicants' working knowledge of the subjects

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identified in this section.

(c) The committee shall prepare and administer an examination on the foregoing principles whenever the committee deems it necessary, but not less than twice per year. The special examination which may be administered on the basis of reciprocity to a person licensed in another state may be limited in scope to those subjects which in the opinion of the committee are unique to the practice of forestry in California.

1640.4. Alternative Programs Certifying Competence in Significant Core Concepts.

(a) The Board, at its discretion, may recognize one or more independent educational programs to serve as an equivalent alternative for satisfying the requirement in Section 1640.3(b) that an applicant demonstrate professional competence in the significant core concepts in the subjects identified in that section. An applicant who otherwise meets the criteria for licensure and who successfully completes a recognized educational program described in this section shall be eligible for a license upon successful completion of the abbreviated examination described in Section 1640.3(b).

(b) (1) A professional society; or public agency; or educational institution may apply for Board recognition of the entity's independent educational program as satisfying the requirement that an applicant demonstrate professional competence in the understanding of significant core concepts in the subjects identified in Section 1640.3. The entity shall submit its program to the Board for evaluation, including information about eligibility requirements, curriculum content, requirements for successful completion of the program, and process by which the committee and Board may confirm that an applicant has completed the program.

(2) An independent educational program shall be eligible for recognition only if all instruction is provided by a licensed RPF.

(3) The Board shall not recognize an independent educational program unless it determines that the program protects the public interest by ensuring that participants who successfully complete the program have an understanding of the significant core concepts in the subjects identified in Section 1640.3(a) that is equal to or greater than what the Board expects an applicant to demonstrate in order to pass that portion of the comprehensive exam described in Section 1640.3(b).

(4) The entity administering a recognized independent educational program shall notify and obtain committee approval of any changes to the program prior to implementation. Any significant proposed changes to the program shall be approved by the Board.

(5) On or before [DATE] of each year, the entity administering a recognized independent educational program shall submit a report to the Executive Officer of Forester Licensing describing the program's accomplishments for the previous calendar year. The report shall include information regarding the number individuals who apply to the program, the number of individuals accepted into the program, the number of accepted participants who successfully complete the program, a summary of reasons any individuals failed to complete the program; and copies of any examinations or other criteria used by the entity to determine that a participant has successfully completed the program.

(6) The Board may review a recognized educational program from time to time to evaluate whether the program continues to meet the criteria for recognition. The Board may rescind recognition of an independent educational program at any time if it determines the program no longer complies with the requirements of this section or protects the public interest, or both.

(c) The Board shall publish a list of independent educational programs recognized pursuant to this section on its website.