



Division of Forestry

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Amey Marrella, Commissioner

www.ct.gov/dep



The Forestry Practices Act



Introduction

Connecticut forests are not pristine or static, and almost without exception, logging occurs in every town of CT. Since Europeans arrived in CT, our forests have undergone multiple cycles of harvesting, forest regeneration and growth. Forests change both because of natural events, such as fire, and man's intervention. Currently about 60% of the state is covered in forests, which continue to change in age and composition.



Facts on Timber Harvesting

- Each year about 19,000 acres or about 30 square miles are harvested in Connecticut.
- The average harvest is approximately 42 acres and removes 85,000 board feet.
- There are approximately 400 to 500 timber harvests in Connecticut annually.
- With few exceptions, timber harvesting occurs in some form in every town in Connecticut.



Forest Practices Act

To assist with the Management of CT's forests, the CT legislature passed the Forest Practices Act

- Adopted in 1991 the Act:
 - Established the Forest Practices Advisory Board
 - Allowed the Department to adopt forest practice regulations
 - Required all forest practitioners that advertise, solicit, contract or engage in Commercial Forest Practices to be **Certified** by DEP



Commercial Forest Practices

Use this [hyperlink](#) for more information on forestry practices from DEP.

- Essentially, a commercial forest practice is any harvest that is:
 - Greater than 25,000 board feet (equal to 50 cords or 150 tons).
 - Has **not** been approved for conversion to non-forest by both the municipal Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions .
- If a subdivision has been permitted by both the Planning and Zoning and the Inland Wetlands Commissions, the harvest of trees associated with such subdivision is **not** considered a commercial forest practice so the forest practitioner does not need to be certified.



Forest practitioner certification

Only the Supervising Forest Products Harvester and the Forester can plan a forestry operation for presentation to a Wetlands Commission

○ Three Levels of Certification:

- **1) Forester Products Harvester**
 - Forestry worker only. Cannot purchase timber or plan an operation.
- **2) Supervising Forest Products Harvester**
 - May work in the woods, supervise an operation and develop an operational plan. Cannot develop a silvicultural plan.
- **3) Forester**
 - May work in the woods, supervise an operation, develop both an operational plan and a silvicultural plan.



Confirming certification

Inland Wetlands Agencies can request verification of certification when considering forestry related proposals

- Check the following information:
 - Photo ID
 - Directory of Certified Forest Practitioners on DEP's website
- Why is it important?
 - Helps identify different levels of expertise
 - **Only** Supervising Harvesters and Foresters are permitted to develop and supervise the execution of harvest plans and come before inland wetlands agencies



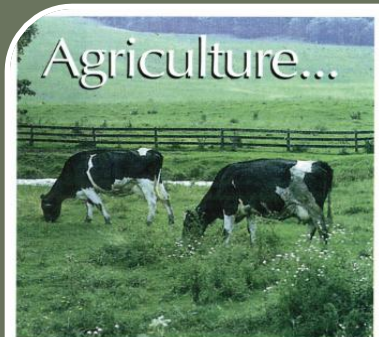
Achieving certification

*Forest Practitioners are educated
on Connecticut's Inland Wetlands
and Watercourses Act*

- ◉ Forest Practitioner Study Guide
- ◉ Written examination required
- ◉ Continuing Education required

Additional notes

The “Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands Protection in Connecticut” brochure is available on the DEP website. See this [hyperlink](#).



...and Wetlands
Protection in
Connecticut

- The DEP-Forestry Division conducts about 20 unannounced on-site inspections per month.
- The DEP-Forestry Division provides assistance to towns concerning forest practitioner certification and forestry practices.
- The *Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands Protection in CT* brochure provides guidelines when determining which activities may or may not be permitted “as of right.”
- **Certification does NOT exempt forest practitioners from seeking a jurisdictional ruling or a permit from municipal inland wetlands commissions!**

Contact Information



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