

# LICENSED TIMBER HARVESTER CONTINUING EDUCATION POLICY

As of January 1996, policy changes require those persons, firms or corporations holding a Timber Harvester License to participate in a continuing education program in order to be eligible for Timber Harvester renewal. This continuing education requirement replaces the previous open book examination.

**PURPOSE** The purposes of continuing education are: 1) to build upon existing base of knowledge and 2) ultimately to ensure responsible and informed timber harvesting practices within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**BACKGROUND** The continuing education policy replaces the previous open book examination and satisfies the regulatory requirement that each licensed harvester "...shall demonstrate general familiarity with the laws of the commonwealth that concern timber harvesting...." (M.G.L. Ch132 - section 46)

**CONTINUING EDUCATION** Attendance at training or retraining programs, seminars, workshops and lectures presented in various subject areas will fulfill the continuing education requirements.

**RECERTIFICATION PERIOD** Although Harvester Licenses are issued annually; Licensed Harvesters are given a three year certification period to complete the continuing education requirement. The recertification period begins July 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year in which the license is issued, continues for 36 months, and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the third year.

**RECERTIFICATION FOR EVERYONE** All licensed harvesters, including those employees identified on their employer's license applications (one for each employee), must each accumulate nine (9) continuing education hours within each three (3) year recertification period.

**CONTACT HOURS** Each licensed harvester, (including employees listed on an employer's Timber harvesting licenses – one approved Timber Harvester's License for each employee with a separate THL number for each assigned person), is required to attend nine hours of continuing education within each three year recertification period. Each sixty minutes of training equals one "contact hour" of continuing education. Three (3) of these nine (9) hours, must focus on the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act (MGL Chapter 132, Sections 40-46) - Rules and Regulations 304 CMR 11.00: FOREST CUTTING PRACTICES, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Service Forestry Program. The remaining six (6) hours of continuing education can focus on a wide variety of subjects including but not limited to: wetland identification, wetland values and functions, rare species habitat protection, safety, business management, equipment maintenance, new equipment technologies, communication skills, natural resource management, forest product measurement, grading lumber or standing timber, wildlife management, forestry engineering, and others.

**VERIFICATION** Each licensed harvester must keep a record of continuing education sessions attended that contains standard continuing education certificates provided by the training sponsor or in the case of training that was not pre-approved a program agenda will suffice. A list of sessions including the title, location, instructor, and dates attended, or a copy of the certificates and program agenda's, must be submitted at the end of each recertification period along with the Timber Harvester License application form and appropriate fee. Applicants, who fail to satisfactorily verify nine (9) hours of continuing education at the end of the recertification period or fail to renew a Harvester license, will be required to pass a test in order to obtain a current Timber Harvester License.

**SPONSORS** Continuing education opportunities can be designed and presented by various sponsors throughout the region, including but not limited to: the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Agricultural Resources, Department of Energy Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Fires Services, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Industrial Accidents, Department of Labor, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Utilities, Department of Revenue, Department of State Police, Department of Transportation, Department of Workforce Development, Mass Audubon, University of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Wood Producers Association, Forest Stewardship Program, Northeast Loggers Association, and others.

**PRE-APPROVAL** Pre-approval of continuing education sessions allows sponsors to accurately advertise continuing education opportunities to the forest industry. Each continuing education training program listed and submitted for recertification of a timber Harvester License is subject to review for approval.