

**Master Logger Certification Committee Update**  
**American Loggers Council**  
**2013 Annual Report**  
**Marksville, Louisiana**

Many states have implemented the American Loggers Council Master Logger Certification Program and have been progressing well. Some states report that ALC Certified Master Loggers are realizing benefits in the supply chain.

Now eighteen states have approved MLC templates: Idaho, Maine, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, California, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Vermont, Michigan, Missouri, Georgia and Florida with subsidiary states Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island partnering with the Maine Northeast Master Logger Certification Program.

Other states have been reluctant to move forward with preparing and submitting a state template for MLC approval. With SFI's recognition of Certified Logger Programs, ALC states are encouraged to submit a template for approval by the MLC Committee.

The ALC Master Logger Certification program is voluntary, not mandatory. But if all ALC states had an approved MLC template, whether the program is implemented or not, this would enhance the ALC MLC's position as a mechanism to certify wood as being sustainably harvested by certified logging professionals to concur with the SFI Standards, Chain of Custody processes and other Forest Certification Systems.

Unity within the ALC ranks is needed and a consensus of ALC MLC states would show the support for raising the professional timber harvesting bar and show support for professionalism and sustainable forestry practices nationwide.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is now in the process of reviewing the 2010 – 2014 Standards for revisions to be incorporated into the 2015 – 2019 Standards. There are two areas the MLC Committee feels the American Loggers Council may want to offer comments.

1. Address the “deminimus” volume of wood SFI participating companies can receive from “untrained loggers and wood suppliers.” SFI companies can now receive untrained wood via the standard currently in place. While this amount probably varies widely by company, this allows for those wood suppliers to deliver volumes without having to be SFI Trained. Therefore this allows a competitive advantage for untrained wood suppliers. A firm volume should be inserted into the standard or this minimum volume be eliminated altogether thus having all volumes come from SFI Trained suppliers.
2. Address the SFI logger training process to perhaps obtain some consistency for states to go by for logger training programs. This area is probably very difficult to address because of the variations in logger and wood supplier training programs nationwide. Some states have continuing education hours that must be met within a given period of time and some do not. Some states conduct training classes, some use DVD based training programs and others may use another methodology. SFI logger training programs are overseen by the SFI State Implementation Committees. So the approach used within any given state is directed by the SIC. Perhaps the ALC might offer a recommendation for the minimum number of

continuing education hours for logger/ wood supplier training programs. Again, this is difficult to address due to the variations. For example, South Carolina has changed from requiring 12 hours of SFI continuing education every three years via class programs and approved training courses to an annual SFI Trained status using a training DVD which covers the SFI required training topics of the current SFI Standard. As previously mentioned, this may be difficult to address, but the MLC Committee wanted to bring this topic forward for discussion.

At the July ALC board meeting in Dallas, Texas, both points of interest were discussed. It was determined ALC would present a recommendation to the SFI board the “deminimus” volume received by SFI participating companies be set at a specific percentage number. It was agreed the percentage to be recommended by ALC be 3 percent (3%) of volume purchased.

The logger training point was discussed with no action taken. Due to the complexities and varieties of training programs throughout the nation, this is a difficult issue to approach. Further investigation into this will be conducted.

Since the Dallas summer board meeting the MLC Committee has received three updates from states. Reports for the Wisconsin MLC and Great Lakes Regional Michigan MLC were received. Alabama responded there was no activity to report. Thanks to these respondents.

No reports or comments from other MLC approved states regarding any changes or updates since the Dallas meeting have been received. ALC MLC states are reminded if a revision is made to the state’s program, the MLC Committee request an update be forwarded to the committee chairman. The committee would appreciate any updates that may have been initiated for a MLC state.

The ALC’s National Master Logger Certification© template provides guidance for Seven Areas of Responsibility for performance standards. Each ALC member state develops its state template according to state laws, practices, regulations and criteria to meet the national template’s performance standards.

The ALC Master Logger Certification© Committee has the responsibility of reviewing submitted state templates to assure established processes are included for implementation, administration, third party verification, accountability and enforcement. The committee then can approve or return the template for recommended revisions. The committee also reviews approved state template revisions to assure MLC objectives are maintained.

The ALC MLC program is a true third-party certification system via audits of a logger’s business and on the ground practices for the Seven Areas of Responsibility required by the ALC Master Logger Program. And the state must have an approved state ALC MLC template to qualify for the designation of ALC Master Logger Certification.

Logger certification continues to gain importance within forestland management and forest products certification systems. The important point is the American Loggers Council MLC program has led the charge.

ALC states and its logger members must support ALC’s “logger owned and logger controlled” program. ALC and its member states must continue to be the leaders in professional logger certification.

Respectfully submitted,  
Crad Jaynes  
Chairman  
Master Logger Certification Committee

**MLC Reports**  
**As of September 3, 2013**

**Wisconsin Master Logger Certification Program**  
**August 2013 Report**

**PROGRAM STATUS**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Total Current Wisconsin Master Loggers         | 55 |
| Total Number of New Applicants in 2013         | 2  |
| New applicants certified                       | 1  |
| New applicants yet to be acted on              | 2  |
| Total Master Loggers to be Recertified in 2013 | 55 |

**CURRENT PROGRAM BENEFITS**

- Wisconsin DNR Green Tier Charter membership signed into effect April 16, 2012
- Secura Insurance is offering a 20% discount to Master Loggers on insurance coverage excluding worker compensation insurance
- Burnett and Washburn County Forest Bond and Payment Incentive clause specific to Master Loggers
- Marketing tool directed at private landowners by giving them the assurance of harvesting done to an accepted and recognized standard
- Time, Inc. recognizing wood harvested from private land by Master Loggers as certified (New Page and Verso)
- Some mills give preference to Master Loggers for contracts
- Master Logger Program has functioned as an arbitrator on complaints
- WIMLC website for marketing, information, and outreach (wimlc.com)
- Any Certified Master Logger can sign up for FSC® Chain of Custody for any wood they harvest from FSC® certified lands. In 2012, five loggers took advantage of this program.
- Recognized by the WI SFI Implementation Committee as the official SFI Master Logger Certification program for Wisconsin

## **Great Lakes Regional Michigan Master logger Certification Program August 2013 Report**

### **PROGRAM STATUS**

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Total Current Michigan Master Loggers | 32 |
| Total Upper Peninsula Master Loggers  | 28 |
| Total Lower Peninsula Master Loggers  | 4  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Total Number of New Applicants in 2013     | 0 |
| New applicants certified (Upper Peninsula) | 1 |
| New applicants certified (Lower Peninsula) | 1 |

### **CURRENT PROGRAM BENEFITS**

1. Secura Insurance is offering a 20% discount to Master Loggers on insurance coverage excluding worker compensation insurance
2. Some mills will pay a bonus for wood harvested from non-certified private land
3. Preference by some private landowners
4. Master Logger Program has functioned as an arbitrator on complaints
5. Program has been pro-active in being part of Michigan Biomass Harvesting Guidelines
6. MIMLC website for marketing, information, and outreach ([mimlc.com](http://mimlc.com))
7. Time, Inc. recognizing wood harvested from private land by Master Loggers as certified (New Page and Verso)
8. Recognized by MI SFI State Implementation Committee as the official SFI Master Logger Certification Program for Michigan