

Master Logger Certification Committee
American Loggers Council
2014 Annual Meeting
Escanaba, Michigan

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.

Two areas ALC and the MLC Committee have addressed.

1. 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 of 3% to 5% has been presented and recommended to be inserted into the SFI Standard.
2. The SFI logger training process has been discussed to perhaps obtain some consistency for states to go by for logger training programs. This area has been difficult to address because of the variations in logger and wood supplier training programs nationwide. Some states have continuing education hours to 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. As previously mentioned, this is a difficult issue to address. Therefore, it has been decided this issue would be tabled.

The MLC Committee received an update from the Missouri Loggers Council for their MLC program at the Washington, DC meeting. The update contained no substantial changes. The changes address the state Workers Compensation laws primarily so as to have the program coincide with the state laws. The Missouri Loggers Council program updates were reviewed by the MLC Committee and approved and accepted by the board.

No other reports or comments from other MLC approved states regarding any changes or updates have been received since the Summer Iowa meeting.

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
August 28, 2014