

REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS RULES.

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

1 **Article 2. Applications.**

2 **1623. Evidence of Alternative Compliance for Significant Concept Competence.**

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

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11 **Article 3. Examinations**

12 **1640. Notification of Authorization to Take Examination.**

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

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18 **1640.1. Study Exams.**

19 Copies of examination questions for the three (3) year period may be obtained upon payment of a
20 fee covering direct cost of duplication as determined by the executive officer.

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22 **1640.2. Scheduling Examinations.**

23 An application received less than sixty (60) days prior to an announced examination date may be
24 scheduled for the next examination.

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26 **1640.3. Examinations Prescribed.**

27 (a) The examination shall test the applicant's understanding of the significant concept in and working

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1 knowledge ~~of~~ multiple subject areas, including a combination of the following subjects:

2 (1) Forest Economics,

3 (2) Forest Protection,

4 (3) Silviculture,

5 (4) Forest Resources Management,

6 (5) Forest Resources Use,

7 (6) Dendrology,

8 (7) Forest Ecology,

9 (8) Forest Mensuration,

10 (9) Forest Policy, and

11 (10) Forest Administration, as these apply to the management of forest lands to produce goods and
12 services, and in terms of the environmental effects of such activities.

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

16 (1) For standard applicants, the committee shall prepare a comprehensive examination that tests
17 both the significant core concept and working knowledge components necessary for licensure.

18 (2) For applicants who have demonstrated professional competence in significant core concepts by
19 successfully completing a program recognized pursuant to Section 1640.4, the committee shall

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1 prepare an abbreviated examination to test the applicants' working knowledge of the subjects
2 identified in this section.

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

9 1640.4. Alternative Programs Certifying Competence in Significant Core Concepts.

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

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

23 (2) An independent educational program shall be eligible for recognition only if all instruction is
24 provided an RPF.

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1 (3) The Board shall not recognize an independent educational program unless it determines that the
2 program protects the public interest by ensuring that participants who successfully complete the
3 program have an understanding of the significant core concepts in the subjects identified in Section
4 1640.3(a) that is equal to or greater than what the Board expects an applicant to demonstrate in order
5 to pass that portion of the comprehensive exam described in Section 1640.3(b).

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

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

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

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

22 (d) Eligibility to participate in a qualifying independent educational program shall be limited to
23 individuals who have obtained at least four years of qualifying forestry work experience or four years
24 qualifying forestry work experience combined with qualifying substitutable education. The Executive

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1 Officer of foresters licensing shall review applicant submissions and confirm satisfaction of the
2 applicant's experience qualifications prior to their enrollment in the independent educational program
3 and provide notice of the confirmation to the sponsoring professional society or government agency.

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