Timber Cruiser’s Log

7th Edition

Instruction Guide and Log

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Ensuring BC’s Forests Are In Good Hands.
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Introduction to Timber Cruising Accreditation & The Forest Measurements Board

**Timber Cruising**
Timber cruising is a profession primarily driven by the need to obtain consistent and accurate volume estimations, species composition, stand quality and value of the timber resource. Field sampling and assessment are the critical tasks conducted by professional cruisers. The field sampling is based on standard mensuration practices found within the forest industry while the assessments are dependent on a timber cruiser’s ability to estimate stand volume and value.

The career path of a timber cruiser is forged by the cruiser’s ability to continually learn sampling techniques, using standard conventions and gaining local knowledge. The cruiser must learn through experience. The knowledge of timber Cruising is traditionally passed on from mentor to student in a real work environment. This experiential learning is the key to cruiser competency. In addition to learning through experience there are the more traditional courses such as statistics, call grading, net factoring and 3P sampling which will assist an individual in becoming a fully qualified timber cruiser.

The accreditation guide describes the process whereby qualified cruisers may have their experience and knowledge recognized through a competency based evaluation process.

**The Forest Measurements Board**
The Forest Measurements Board (the board) was established by the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) for the purpose of examining and recommending applicants for accreditation as Accredited Timber Cruisers (ATC) or Accredited Timber Evaluators (ATE).

The board has identified the process whereby qualified cruisers may have their training, experience and knowledge recognized through a competency based evaluation. This evaluation process is identified in the Timber Cruiser’s Log.

**General Description of the Cruising Accreditation Process**
There are 4 levels to the Cruising accreditation process:

**Level 1:** Compasser. This requires 3 months of cruising-related experience but an applicant does not apply for certification or accreditation at this Level. This Level is a prerequisite for attaining Levels 2, 3 and 4.
Level 2: Cruiser in Training. This requires 3 months at Level 1 and 6 months at Level 2 for a total of 9 months of cruising-related experience but an applicant does not apply for certification or accreditation at this Level. This Level is a prerequisite for attaining Levels 3 and 4.

Level 3: Accredited Timber Cruiser. This requires 3 months at Level 1, 6 months at Level 2 and 15 months at Level 3 for a total of 24 months of cruising-related experience. The successful registered member applicant would receive a Level 3 Competency Certificate and the successful non-member or enrolled member applicant would receive a Certificate of Accreditation with authority to practice cruising-related aspects of professional forestry as stated in the limitation on practice1.

Level 4: Accredited Timber Evaluator. This requires 3 months at Level 1, 6 months at Level 2, 15 months at Level 3 and 36 months at Level 4 for a total of 60 months of cruising-related experience. The successful registered member applicant would receive a Level 4 Competency Certificate and the successful non-member or enrolled member applicant would receive a Certificate of Accreditation with authority to practice cruising-related aspects of professional forestry as stated in the limitation on practice1.

What is the Purpose of the Timber Cruiser’s Log?
The purpose of the Timber Cruiser’s Log (the log) is to recognize and record the training experience and knowledge that a cruiser must attain to be formally recognized as an ATC or ATE.

The log provides a concise training and experience record and allows you to demonstrate your competencies to the board and your employer(s). The log contains a cruiser diary as a useful tool to help you record all types of cruising experience.

Accreditation Eligibility
Individuals who wish to be accredited must demonstrate their competency as a timber cruiser. This requires completion of each level of the Timber Cruiser’s Log and any other criteria as set by the board.

The Period of Accreditation
Accreditation will be granted for a period of up to 12 months.

1 The Competency Certificate is issued under the authority of Section 11 (1) (m) of the Foresters Act (certification scheme for a technical occupation related to the practice of professional forestry) The Certificate of Accreditation is issued under the authority of Section 16.1 of the Foresters Act where the certificate holder can practice aspects of professional forestry as stated in the limitation on practice on the Certificate of Accreditation. This means that a Level 3 ATC and a Level 4 ATE who are associate or enrolled members will practice professional forestry for some, but not all, of their timber cruising job duties.
Accreditation will automatically be renewed each year to members in good standing upon payment of the annual membership fee ($150 for ATC and ATE) and receipt of the annual self-assessment declaration. Registered members only have to pay their RFT or RPF fee to remain accredited.

Maintaining Your Accreditation
Refer to the ABCFP Code of Ethics, Standards of Professional Practice and the Limitation on Practice on your Certificate of Accreditation.

The ABCFP requires each ATC/ATE to demonstrate continuing competency. The Foresters Act, ABCFP Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice impose a duty for ABCFP members to consistently pursue appropriate professional development to ensure continuing competency.

Cancellation of Accreditation
The board may recommend cancelling accreditation if it was made in error or under false pretenses or if members fail to complete all of the required steps to renew their annual membership.

Appeal Process
An applicant or struck member whose accreditation has been refused or revoked may provide written notice to the board outlining his/her request for a second review or reinstatement.

Reinstatement of Accreditation
Any person who has been struck from membership may have his/her accreditation reinstated if all conditions set by the board have been met and upon payment of all outstanding dues and fees.

A person seeking reinstatement of accreditation due to non-payment of fees will be treated as a new applicant, having his/her qualifications assessed against current requirements.

Professional Conduct
ATCs or ATEs will conduct themselves in accordance with the professional standards identified in the Foresters Act (http://bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/03019_01) and ABCFP Bylaws (http://member.abcfp.ca/web/Files/ABCFP_bylaws_201511.pdf). Special note should be made of Bylaw 11 (Code of Ethics) and Bylaw 12 (Standards of Professional Practice).
Accreditation Guide

The following functions, education and experience and cruising level definitions are provided below to clarify the respective accreditation forms.

Please read through this guide to ensure you have full knowledge of the requirement for accreditation.

LEVEL 1 - COMPASSER

Function
A Compasser is an entry-level position suitable for forestry workers interested in pursuing a field mensuration, timber cruising or forest inventory career. The Compasser works under the direct supervision of an ATC and assists in field data collection. A Compasser does not practice professional forestry.

Experience Requirements
Three months appropriate field experience at this level and an aptitude in forestry are key attributes required to fulfill this position.

Experiential Learning
All candidates for Level 1 endorsement are encouraged to enhance their knowledge base through actively participating in courses such as:

a) field orienteering
b) survival first aid
c) introduction to variable plot cruising
d) cruiser association workshops

Endorsement Criteria
A Compasser must meet the following requirements to be signed off by an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF to complete Level 1:

a) The ability to function as a Compasser with minimal supervision.
b) Completion of all competencies as described in this document.
c) Completion of three months appropriate field experience at this level.
d) Conducting personal actions in a professional manner consistent with the Foresters Act, ABCFP Bylaws and council resolutions.
1.1 Equipment Knowledge
A Compasser must be able to demonstrate the ability to appropriately operate and maintain:

a) a hand compass
b) a diameter tape, including the replacement of a tape refill
c) an increment borer, including oiling and sharpening
d) an axe
e) a horizontal distance measuring device
f) a vertical distance measuring device

1.2 Field Procedures
A Compasser is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Adjust declination settings, set directional bearings on a hand compass and navigate with minimum supervision.
b) Measure field distances, including the calculation of slope correction to obtain horizontal distance.
c) Establish a plot centre and reference points.
d) Determine the diameter, at breast height, of a tree.
e) Determine the breast height age and measure growth increments of a tree.
f) Assist the cruiser in the measurement of tree heights.
g) Communicate field information clearly and effectively.
h) Conduct tasks in a safe and appropriate manner.

1.3 Field Knowledge
A Compasser is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Differentiate between magnetic, grid and true north and set a navigational course and bearing from a map.
b) Recognize and identify common tree species found within the general work area.
c) Recognize and identify common pathological indicators of decay for trees including: fork/crook, scar/frost crack, dead/broken top, conk, blind conk, dwarf mistletoe and rotten branch.

d) Recognize and identify common tree pests and other damage agents.

e) Map reading skills – recognize, basic map related features including: scale, orientation and topography (contours).

f) Be aware of the appropriate regulatory and occupational requirements.

1.4 Office Procedures
A Compasser is able to demonstrate the following:

a) Communicate clearly with supervisors and appropriate authorities.

b) Assemble, copy and review field data and maps as directed.

c) Conduct personal actions in a professional manner consistent with the ABCFP Foresters Act and Bylaws.

LEVEL 2 – CRUISER IN TRAINING

Function
A Cruiser in Training is an intermediate working position suitable for forestry workers interested in pursuing a field mensuration and/or forest inventory career. At this interim level it is likely that the forestry worker intends to advance to an ATC level. A Cruiser in Training is able to function as a secondary timber cruiser having limited responsibility while under direct supervision. This position allows for development of cruiser field and office abilities. A Cruiser in Training does not practice professional forestry.

Experience Requirements
Nine months of cumulative field experience including six months at this level plus the prerequisite minimum of three months at Level 1.

Experiential Learning
In addition to Level 1 experiential learning, all candidates for Level 2 endorsement are encouraged to enhance their knowledge base through actively participating in courses such as:

a) basic statistics for forestry
b) introduction to call grade/net factoring

c) 3P sampling

d) aerial photo stratification

**Endorsement Criteria**

A Cruiser in Training must meet the following requirements to be signed off by an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF to complete Level 2:

a) The ability to function as a cruiser with direct supervision.

b) Completion of all competencies as described in this document.

c) Completion of six months appropriate field experience at this level.

d) Competent with all functions identified in Levels 1 and 2.

e) Can consistently demonstrate the competence and ability to pass a formal check cruise.

**2.1 Equipment Knowledge**

In addition to Level 1 equipment knowledge, a Cruiser in Training must be able to demonstrate the ability to appropriately operate and maintain:

a) a clinometer and/or hypsometer or electronic height measuring device

b) a prism and/or relaskop

c) a steel/fibreglass or equivalent measuring tape and a nylon chain

d) a two-way radio

e) GPS unit

**2.2 Field Procedures**

In addition to Level 1 field procedures, a Cruiser in Training is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Adjust declination settings, set directional bearings on a hand compass and navigate without supervision.

b) Determine the breast height age and total age of a tree including the calculation of site index.
With emphasis on the following:

c) Determine tree length through measurement and/or estimation.

d) Use a prism and/or relaskop and plot radius factor or diopter calculations to establish variable radius and fixed area plots.

e) Estimate volume per hectare.

f) Record accurate field notes including timber type, topography and tree quality information.

g) Record and communicate clearly the identification, collection and collation of the field data.

h) Communicate clearly and effectively.

i) Conduct tasks in a safe and appropriate manner.

### 2.3 Field Knowledge

In addition to Level 1 field knowledge, a Cruiser in Training is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Recognize and record tree genus/species found within the areas of work.

b) Recognize, identify and record known pathology for trees, with distinctions made between biotic, abiotic and other sources of decay.

c) Recognize, identify and record tree classes with knowledge of the associated risk group classifications and their effects on percent decay.

d) Recognize and record common tree pests and other damage agents.

e) Able to determine photo and photo-to-map scales.

f) Map reading skills – recognize, on the ground, all map related features including: topography (contours), planimetric, forest cover and scale.

g) Determine field location through navigation by using two or more identifiable points relating to both the base map and aerial photograph.

h) Use legal survey plans and notes and recognize bearing trees and posts.

i) Be aware of GPS functions and their appropriate use (where applicable).
2.4 Office Procedures
In addition to Level 1 office procedures, a Cruiser in Training is able to assist with the following:

a) Preparation of a cruise plan map to a specified standard.

b) Pre-stratification of timber types.

c) Determination of the CV (co-efficient of variation) through the calculation of standard deviation and the mean to determine the sampling intensity for a given sampling error objective.

d) Produce an adjusted cruise map including accurate placement of the cruise strip locations, photo to map ties and confirmed timber type lines.

e) Edit field data and prepare it for input to a compilation program.

f) Determine volume per hectare and stems per hectare (where applicable).

With emphasis on the following:

g) Clear and effective communication.

2.5 Office Knowledge
A Cruiser in Training is required to demonstrate basic knowledge of:

a) The principles of decay, waste and breakage factors.

b) The principles of the compilation system including cruise input data and their impact on calculation variables.

c) The appropriate use of photo-to-map transfer device techniques such as; mono-restitution, stereo-plotting or equivalent.

d) Area calculation techniques.

e) Base map origins including, NTS, BCGS and other sources.

f) Basic forest map label information.

g) Contractual obligations.
LEVEL 3 – ACCREDITED TIMBER CRUISER

Function
An Accredited Timber Cruiser (ATC) is an operational working level suitable for forestry workers interested in a timber cruising career. An ATC will also have skills to carry out certain forest inventory functions but it will not be part of his or her limitation on practice. At this level a cruiser is capable of working with minimal supervision and is responsible for supervising and instructing subordinates. An enrolled or associate member ATC practices aspects of professional forestry as stated in the limitation on practice in the Certificate of Accreditation.

Experience Requirements
Twenty-four months cumulative field and office experience including 15 months at this level plus the prerequisite minimum of six months at Level 2 and a minimum of three months at Level 1.

Experiential Learning
In addition to Level 1 and 2 experiential learning, all candidates for accreditation are encouraged to enhance their knowledge base through actively participating in courses such as:

a) variable plot cruising
b) call grade/net factoring
c) log scaling

Endorsement Criteria
An ATC must meet the following requirements to be signed off by an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF to complete Level 3:

a) The ability to function as a cruiser with minimal supervision.
b) Completion of all competencies as described in this document.
c) Completion of 15 months appropriate field and office experience at this level.
d) Competent with all functions identified in Levels 1, 2 and 3.
e) Can consistently demonstrate the competence and ability to pass a formal check cruise.
3.1 Equipment Knowledge
In addition to Level 1 and 2 equipment knowledge, an ATC must be able to demonstrate the ability to appropriately operate and maintain, with emphasis on the following:

a) a programmable calculator (for statistics)
b) Data loggers
c) Cruising software

3.2 Field Procedures
In addition to Level 1 and 2 field procedures, an ATC is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Calculate slope correction to obtain horizontal distance for field measurement and length calculation.

With emphasis on the following:

b) Estimate volume per hectare from variable and fixed area plots.
c) Determine basal area and species composition.
d) Record and communicate clearly the identification, collection and collation of the field data.
e) Conduct field training and auditing for levels 1 and 2 - Compasser and Cruiser in Training.

3.3 Field Knowledge
In addition to Level 1 and 2 field knowledge an ATC is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Differentiate between magnetic, grid and true north and set a navigational course and bearing on a map and aerial photograph.
b) Be aware of alternate sampling techniques including: probe line traverses, stump cruises, and transect lines.
c) Map reading skills – recognize all map related features including: topography (contours), planimetric, forest cover, scale and UTM co-ordinates.
3.4 Office Procedures
In addition to Level 1 and 2 office procedures, an ATC is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Determine timber types through photo interpretation (or other means) and group into sampling strata.

b) Determine the CV (co-efficient of variation) of a stand through means of estimation or calculation.

c) Produce a final cruise map with accurate placement of the cruise strip locations, photo-to-map ties and confirmed timber type lines.

d) Plan and conduct check cruising to specified standards.

e) Prepare cruise data for computer compilation.

f) Produce a post-cruise report that accurately presents the criteria requested by the client.

g) Manage a daily work schedule.

h) Conduct office training and auditing for levels 1 and 2.

3.5 Office Knowledge
In addition to office knowledge for Level 2, an ATC is required to demonstrate an understanding of:

a) Sampling theory for variable radius plot cruising including co-efficient of variation, standard deviation and error objectives.

b) The appropriate decay, waste and breakage factors for specific areas.

c) Log grade algorithm flowcharts at a basic level.

d) Computer compilation output data including lumber recovery factors, total cull (DWB) and piece size.

e) The basic principles of the appraisal system including cruise input data and their impact on calculation variables.

f) The criteria and procedures for check cruising.

g) Recognize base map origins including, NTS, BCGS and other sources.
h) Understand and know the limitations of forest inventory map label information.

i) Be aware of time line/efficiency scales.

**LEVEL 4 - ACCREDITED TIMBER EVALUATOR**

**Function**
An Accredited Timber Evaluator (ATE) is a senior working and/or supervisory level. It is at this level that forestry workers will make timber cruising a significant and valuable part of their careers. An ATE will also have skills to carry out certain forest inventory functions but it will not be part of his or her limitation on practice. At this level a cruiser is able to organize and conduct an entire timber cruise and is responsible for training, supervising and auditing subordinates. The ATE is capable of conducting forest inventory field sampling and related office procedures. An enrolled or associate member ATE practices aspects of professional forestry as stated in the limitation on practice in the Certificate of Accreditation.

**Experience Requirements**
Sixty months cumulative field and office experience including 15 months at this level plus a minimum of 36 months at Level 3 and the prerequisite minimum of six months at Level 2 and a minimum of three months at Level 1.

**Experiential Learning**
In addition to Level 1, 2 and 3 experiential learning, all candidates for accreditation are required to enhance their knowledge base through actively participating in courses such as:

a) double sampling techniques

**Endorsement Criteria**
An ATE must meet the following requirements to be signed off by an ATE, RFT or RPF to complete Level 4:

a) The ability to function as a lead cruiser without routine supervision.

b) Completion of all competencies as described in this document.

c) Completion of 15 months appropriate field and office experience at this level plus 36 months appropriate field and office experience at Level 3.

d) Competent with all functions identified in Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4.
e) Can consistently demonstrate the competence and ability to pass a formal check cruise.

4.1 Equipment Knowledge
An ATE must be able to demonstrate the ability to appropriately operate and maintain the same equipment as for Level 1, 2 and 3.

4.2 Field Procedures
In addition to field procedures for Level 1, 2 and 3, an ATE is able to conduct field training and auditing for all cruising levels.

4.3 Field Knowledge
In addition to Level 1, 2 and 3, an ATE is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Use alternate sampling techniques which may include: probe line traverses, stump cruises, transect lines and 3P.

4.4 Office Procedures
An ATE is able to demonstrate the following to a specified accuracy:

a) Prepare check cruise reports.

b) Co-ordinate and manage timber cruising projects.

c) Conduct office training and auditing for all cruiser levels.

4.5 Office Knowledge
In addition to office knowledge for Level 2 and 3, an ATE is required to:

a) Understand sampling theory for variable radius plot cruising including coefficient of variation, standard deviation, VBAR calculations and sampling error objectives.

b) Ensure that appropriate decay, waste and breakage factors for specified areas are used.

c) Interpret log grade algorithm flowcharts at a working level.

d) Interpret and use computer compilation output data including lumber recovery factors, total cull (DWB) and piece size.
e) Understand the principles of the appraisal system including all cruise input data and their impact on calculation variables.

f) Understand the appropriate use of photo-to-map transfer device techniques such as; mono-restitution, stereo-plotting or equivalent.

g) Understand area calculation techniques.

h) Understand the criteria and procedures for check cruising.

**Accreditation Process**

The board has defined four levels of competency for individuals who wish to obtain accreditation as a timber cruiser. The levels are:

- Level 1 - Compasser
- Level 2 - Cruiser in Training
- Level 3 - ATC
- Level 4 - ATE

Accreditation is granted at levels 3 and 4 only.

**Sign-off Procedure**

At each competence level, an applicant must be signed-off or endorsed by a qualified sponsor. This sign-off process is the basis for assessing competency. The process relies on complete information from the applicant and the integrity and participation of the endorsing sponsor(s) and references.

A cruiser must consistently demonstrate his/her competence and ability to achieve all aspects of the activities described within the competency guide.

**Endorsing Sponsor**

An endorsing sponsor is responsible for ensuring that the applicant has satisfactorily demonstrated all aspects of the required competencies and abilities prior to the sign-off or endorsement of each level. The endorsing sponsor must be an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF. To endorse each level an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF must provide a signature and member number for each section within the level.

- The sign-off for Levels 1 (Compasser), 2 (Cruiser in Training) and 3 (ATC) must be completed by an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF.
- The sign-off for Level 4 (ATE) must be completed by an ATE, RFT or RPF.
References
The applicant must include two Confidential Work Experience Reports (one must be from your current supervisor) obtained from persons who are in a position to provide a personal assessment of the applicant’s competencies, technical abilities, work standards and general professional character. To act as a reference, these individuals must be members of the ABCFP and have direct knowledge of your work experience in the capacity of a supervisor or colleague.

Work Experience
It is important that the applicant completes the minimum requirements for field experience. The minimum requirements must be demonstrated and documented at each level to ensure his/her understanding of the principles and attainment of the appropriate skills. This experience is recorded in the timber cruiser experience log. The minimum experience requirements for sign-off are as follows.

- Where three months field experience is required, approximately 45 days of related cruising activities should be obtained.
- Where 12 months field and office experience is required, approximately 120 days of field-related cruising activities and 60 days of office-related cruising activities should be obtained.
- An ATE must have a minimum of 36 months of related cruising experience at Level 3 and a total of 60 months combined field and office experience.

The following table provides clarification regarding the minimum time requirements for each level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired Level</th>
<th>Minimum Time Requirements to Qualify for each Level</th>
<th>Minimum Accumulated Time Requirements for Accreditation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 - Compasser</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>Compass duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 - Cruiser in Training</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>Senior Compasser to Cruiser in Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 - ATC</td>
<td>15 months</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>Cruising duties and instructor of Compassers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4 - ATE</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>60 months</td>
<td>Senior Cruising duties and instructor for cruisers</td>
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Fee Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Timber Cruiser’s Log and Application Forms*</td>
<td>$75 (plus GST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Cruiser’s Log for Students</td>
<td>$40 (plus GST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$110 (plus GST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Membership Fee</td>
<td>$150 (plus GST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Fee</td>
<td>$50 (plus GST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclassification Fee</td>
<td>$80 (plus GST)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A fee is required to obtain hardcopies of forms. PDF copies or fillable Word forms are available on the website for free on the Forms page ([http://member.abcfp.ca/WEB/ABCFP/Members/Forms/ABCFP/Forms.aspx](http://member.abcfp.ca/WEB/ABCFP/Members/Forms/ABCFP/Forms.aspx)).

Fees are subject to change by ABCFP council resolution. Once accreditation is granted, the annual membership fee is pro-rated for the first year.

Questions & Answers

The following information answers some basic questions about applying for accreditation.

1. **Who is eligible for accreditation?**
   Applicants must have demonstrated competencies (completion of the Timber Cruiser’s Log and any other requirements as determined by the board) to be considered for accreditation and can be non-ABCFP members or ABCFP enrolled, special permit holder, registered or associate members.

2. **What is involved in getting accredited?**
   The accreditation process has been designed to recognize the value of competencies achieved through experience. The process takes into consideration an applicant’s formal education credentials, as well as workshops and seminars attended, and related forms of education and training. To help a cruiser develop a career path and track his or her progress, we provide all applicants with a Timber Cruiser’s Log, experience log and a diary. The logs are critical components of the application for accreditation.

   Once you are approved for an appropriate amount of experience you will write an appropriate coastal, interior or provincial ATC or ATE technical exam where a pass is 70%. In addition to this exam, all non ABCFP members are required to write an open book ethics exam where the passing mark is 80%.
3. **What are the levels of qualification/competency?**
To help provide a path toward accreditation, four levels of qualifications/competencies have been established. Upon completion of Levels 1-3 requirements, you may apply for accreditation as an ATC. Upon completing Level 4, you may apply for ATE accreditation.

4. **Who evaluates my credentials?**
All applicants are evaluated by the board, which is comprised of senior representatives from industry, consulting, government and education institutions.

The board is responsible for assessing qualifications and recommending accreditation for ABCFP council approval. Individual board reviewers will make a comprehensive assessment of your qualifications.

5. **Whom can I use for references?**
References should be persons working in the field of cruising who can verify your current and/or past experiences as a timber cruiser. We need to see an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF and your current supervisor listed as references.

Do not include personal references unless you have worked for or with these people in a technical capacity.

6. **How are my academic credentials assessed?**
It is important that you document all forms of education and training. Include formal post-secondary education such as graduation from technology institutes, colleges or universities. Also document all forms of seminars, workshops and other forms of training.

7. **Do I submit a copy of the Timber Cruiser’s Log?**
Yes, send a copy of applicable sections from the log at the time of making application for accreditation. Do not send originals.

8. **How should I describe my experience?**
To achieve accreditation, the board requires that you provide evidence of attaining relevant progressive experience, verified by references. All experience, especially that related to timber cruising, must be documented for the board. The timber cruiser’s experience log is a tool to ensure you record all applicable types of cruising-related experience.

9. **How long does it take to get accredited?**
If your application is complete, with all required experience, it could take a couple of weeks to obtain approval to write the appropriate technical exam. Exams can be written at any time with an ABCFP invigilator. If you pass the technical exam, the...
total process can take 4 weeks. If you don’t have the appropriate experience or fail the exam the process will be delayed or postponed.

Be sure to go through the check list on the application form and provide all the information required in your application package. An incomplete application will delay the process. It is your responsibility to provide all requested information.

10. **What happens when I get accredited?**
After the board recommends your accreditation and council approves it during periodic council meetings, you will receive a letter of confirmation and a competency certificate if you are a registered member or a certificate of accreditation if you are an enrolled member or a new associate member.

11. **What if my application for accreditation is not successful?**
The board will provide you with reasons for its decision and may provide you with other recommendations which may include applying/writing at a later date.

12. **For what period of time is my accreditation valid?**
Accreditation is based on the understanding that a timber cruiser continues to practise timber cruising and is able to remain competent while working within the ABCFP limitation on professional forestry practice stated in the Certificate of Accreditation for enrolled and associate members.

Accreditation will automatically be renewed each year to members in good standing upon payment of the annual membership fee and receipt of the annual self-assessment declaration.

13. **Any other questions?**
If you have any other questions regarding the application process, please call Brian Robinson at the Association of BC Forest Professionals at 250-851-3185, send an e-mail to brobinson@abcfp.ca or visit the website (www.abcfp.ca).

**Completing the Log**
The following is a summary of the step by step instruction necessary to complete the log.

1. Read the Questions and Answers section of the log to answer some of the basic questions about applying for accreditation.

2. Read the competency guide for each level, specifically the function, experience and endorsement sections.
3. Review the accreditation form for each level, complete those sections of the criteria where you have achieved the competency requirements and submit the form to an Accredited Timber Cruiser (ATC), Accredited Timber Evaluator (ATE), Register Forest Technologist (RFT) or Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for endorsement (initials, member number and date). You are encouraged to have each competency endorsed, as you achieve each section on an on-going basis.

4. When all of the criteria for a level have been achieved, submit the accreditation form to your sponsoring ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF for endorsement (initials, member number and date) of that entire level.

5. The endorser must have personal knowledge of your competencies as the integrity of the endorsement is based on the endorser’s signature.

Please Note:

- An ATC can only initial and endorse competencies for Levels 1 to 3 (Compasser to ATC) but not level 4.

- ATEs, RFTs and RPFs can initial and endorse competencies for all levels.

- If, due to geographic or other special circumstances, you are unable to secure endorsement by an ATC, ATE, RFT or RPF, the ABCFP registration department will provide you with a list of those members for potential endorsement.

- Once you have all the competencies initialled and the accreditation form endorsed for Level 3 or 4, complete the Application for Accreditation http://www.abcfp.ca/entering_the_profession/applying/documents/ATC_ATE_App.pdf and submit all of the required material to the board.

- You must complete and submit the accreditation forms for Levels 1, 2 and 3 as part of your application to become an ATC, and the Accreditation Forms for Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 as part of your application to become an ATE.

6. The ATC/ATE application package contains an application checklist to ensure you submit a complete application.

7. The registration department and board will only process complete applications. If an application is found to be incomplete, the registration department will make a specific request to obtain the missing information. If the information is not obtained, the application will not be considered for final review.
Accreditation Form Level 1: Compasser

To be endorsed (signed-off) by an Accredited Timber Cruiser, an Accredited Timber Evaluator or an ABCFP registered member.

1.1 Equipment Knowledge
A Compasser must be able to demonstrate the ability to operate and maintain:

- [ ] hand compass
- [ ] diameter tape
- [ ] increment borer
- [ ] axe
- [ ] horizontal distance measuring device
- [ ] vertical measuring device

Competency endorsed by: 

Initial: ____________________  Member #: ____________________  Date: __________

1.2 Field Procedures
A Compasser is able to demonstrate the following:

- [ ] operate hand compass
- [ ] measure horizontal distances
- [ ] establish plot centres
- [ ] determine tree diameters
- [ ] determine tree age at breast height & measure growth increment
- [ ] assist in tree height measurements
- [ ] communicate clearly
- [ ] conduct tasks in a safe manner

Competency endorsed by: 

Initial: ____________________  Member #: ____________________  Date: __________

1.3 Field Knowledge
A Compasser is able to demonstrate the following:

- [ ] differentiate between magnetic, grid and true north
- [ ] recognize and identify tree pathology
- [ ] recognize and identify common tree pests and other damage
- [ ] map reading - recognize basic map related features
- [ ] be aware of regulatory and occupational requirements

Competency endorsed by: 

Initial: ____________________  Member #: ____________________  Date: __________
1.4 Office Procedures

A Compasser is able to **demonstrate** the following:

- ☐ communicate clearly with supervisors
- ☐ assemble, copy and review field data and maps
- ☐ conduct personal actions in a professional manner consistent with the ABCFP Foresters Act and Bylaws

Competency endorsed by:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Endorsement for Level 1 - Coast

Print First and Last Name of Compasser

has completed all the necessary competencies for Level 1.

Endorsed By - Print First and Last Name

Signature of Endorser

Endorser's Member #

Date of Endorsement

### Endorsement for Level 1 - Interior

Print First and Last Name of Compasser

has completed all the necessary competencies for Level 1.

Endorsed By - Print First and Last Name

Signature of Endorser

Endorser's Member #

Date of Endorsement
Accreditation Form Level 2: 
Cruiser-in-Training

To be endorsed (signed-off) by an Accredited Timber Cruiser, an Accredited Timber Evaluator or an ABCFP registered member.

### 2.1 Equipment Knowledge

A Cruiser in training must be able to **demonstrate** the ability to operate and maintain:

- [ ] all Items in Section 1.1
- [ ] horizontal distance measuring device
- [ ] vertical distance measuring device (i.e. Laser Hypsometer)
- [ ] Prism and/or Relaskop
- [ ] two-way radio
- [ ] GPS unit

Competency endorsed by:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 2.2 Field Procedures

A Cruiser in training is able to **demonstrate** the following:

- [ ] all Items in Section 1.2
- [ ] measure horizontal distances/calculate slope correction
- [ ] plot establishment (fixed area and variable radius)
- [ ] estimate volume per hectare
- [ ] determine tree age at breast height and calculate total age
- [ ] tree height (length) measurement and estimation
- [ ] record accurate field notes
- [ ] conduct tasks in a safe manner

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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### 2.3 Field Knowledge

A Cruiser in training is **knowledgeable** with the following:

- [ ] all Items in Section 1.3
- [ ] differentiate between UTM and NAD positioning
- [ ] recognize and identify tree classes and risk groups, know their effects on percent cull
- [ ] recognize and identify tree genus/species
- [ ] recognize and identify tree pathology (including biotic, abiotic and other sources of decay)
- [ ] recognize and identify common tree pests and other damage agents
- [ ] determine photo and photo-to-map scales
- [ ] determine field location through identification of ground features
- [ ] use legal survey plans, recognize bearing trees and posts
- [ ] be aware of GPS functions and uses
- [ ] be aware of regulatory and occupational requirements

Competency endorsed by:

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<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>
2.4 Office Procedures

A Cruiser in training is able to assist with the following:

- prepare a cruise plan
- pre-stratification of timber types
- produce an adjusted cruise map (with accurate placement of plots)
- confirm timber types
- edit field data and prepare it for input to a compilation program
- determine volume per hectare
- communicate clearly with supervisors
- conduct personal actions in a professional manner consistent with the ABCFP Foresters Act and Bylaws

Competency endorsed by:

Initial __________________________ Member # __________ Date __________

2.5 Office Knowledge

A Cruiser in training is required to have basic knowledge of:

- the principles of decay, waste and breakage factors
- the principles of the compilation system
- the appropriate use of photo-to-map transfer devices (stereo-plotting)
- area calculation techniques
- base map origins including NTS, BCGS and other sources
- basic forest map label information
- contractual obligations

Competency endorsed by:

Initial __________________________ Member # __________ Date __________
# Accreditation Form Level 3: Accredited Timber Cruiser

To be endorsed (signed-off) by an Accredited Timber Cruiser, an Accredited Timber Evaluator or an ABCFP registered member.

## 3.1 Equipment Knowledge

An ATC must be able to **demonstrate** the ability to operate and maintain:

- [ ] all Items in Sections 1.1 and 2.1
- [ ] horizontal distance measuring device
- [ ] vertical measuring device (i.e. laser hypsometer)
- [ ] prism and/or relaskop
- [ ] two-way radio
- [ ] GPS unit
- [ ] a programmable calculator (for statistics)
- [ ] a data logger
- [ ] cruising software

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>

## 3.2 Field Procedures

An ATC is able to **demonstrate** the following:

- [ ] all Items in Sections 1.2 and 2.2
- [ ] measure horizontal distances/calculate slope correction
- [ ] plot establishment (fixed area and variable radius using plot radius factors or diopter calculations)
- [ ] determine basal area and species composition
- [ ] estimate volume per hectare and stems per hectare
- [ ] determine tree age at breast height & calculate site index
- [ ] tree height (length) measurement and estimation
- [ ] record accurate field notes
- [ ] conduct field training and check cruising for Levels 1 and 2
- [ ] clear and effective communication
- [ ] conduct tasks in a safe manner

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>

## 3.3 Field Knowledge

An ATC is able to **demonstrate** the following:

- [ ] all Items in Sections 1.3 and 2.3
- [ ] alternate sampling techniques (probe line traverses, stump cruise and transect lines, etc.)

Competency endorsed by:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
</table>
3.4 Office Procedures

An ATC is able to **demonstrate** the following:

- [ ] all Items in Section 2.4
- [ ] determine co-efficient of variation and sampling intensity
- [ ] produce an adjusted cruise map (with accurate placement of plots)
- [ ] confirm timber types
- [ ] edit field data and prepare it for input to a compilation program
- [ ] determine volume per hectare and stems per hectare
- [ ] conduct office training for Levels 1 and 2
- [ ] manage a daily work schedule
- [ ] communicate clearly with supervisors
- [ ] conduct personal actions in a professional manner consistent with the ABCFP Foresters Act and Bylaws

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>

3.5 Office Knowledge

An Accredited Timber Cruiser is required to demonstrate understanding of:

- [ ] all Items in Section 2.5
- [ ] sampling theory for variable radius plot cruising
- [ ] computer compilation output data including LRF, cull and piece size
- [ ] basic principles of the appraisal system
- [ ] check cruise criteria and procedures
- [ ] understand the forest inventory system (knowledge of the limitations)
- [ ] contractual obligations
- [ ] timeline/efficiency scales

Competency endorsed by:

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<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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### Endorsement for Level 3- Coast

Print First and Last Name of Cruiser in training
has completed all the necessary competencies for Level 3.

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Endorsed By - Print First and Last Name
Signature of Endorser

---

Endorser’s Member #  Date of Endorsement

---

### Endorsement for Level 3 - Interior

Print First and Last Name of Cruiser in training
has completed all the necessary competencies for Level 3.

---

Endorsed By - Print First and Last Name
Signature of Endorser

---

Endorser’s Member #  Date of Endorsement
# Accreditation Form Level 4: Accredited Timber Evaluator

To be endorsed (signed-off) by an Accredited Timber Evaluator or an ABCFP registered member.

## 4.1 Equipment Knowledge

An ATE must be able to **competently demonstrate** the ability to operate and maintain:

- [ ] all items in Sections 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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## 4.2 Field Procedures

An ATE has developed a comprehensive understanding of and can **competently demonstrate** the following:

- [ ] all Items in Sections 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2
- [ ] estimate decay values and volume recovery
- [ ] conduct field training and check cruising for all levels

Competency endorsed by:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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## 4.3 Field Knowledge

An ATE has developed a comprehensive understanding of and can **competently demonstrate** the following:

- [ ] all items in Sections 1.3, 2.3 and 3.3

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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## 4.4 Office Procedures

An ATE is **required to competently demonstrate** the following:

- [ ] all items in Sections 1.4, 2.4 and 3.4
- [ ] prepare check cruise reports
- [ ] produce post cruise reports that accurately presents the criteria requested by the client
- [ ] manage a daily work schedule for self and subordinates
- [ ] co-ordinate and manage timber cruising projects
- [ ] communicate clearly with senior staff, peers and subordinates

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>
## 4.5 Office Knowledge

An ATE is required to demonstrate complete understanding of:

- all items in Sections 2.5 and 3.5
- understanding of co-efficient of variation, standard deviation, VBAR calculations and sampling error objectives
- ensure appropriate decay waste and breakage factors are used and understood
- the principles of the compilation system
- interpret log grade algorithm flowcharts
- understand and apply the appropriate use of photo-to-map transfer devices (stereo plotting, mono-restitution or equivalent)
- computer compilation output data including LRF, cull and piece size
- the principles of the appraisal system as it relates to cruise input data
- check cruise criteria and procedures

Competency endorsed by:

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<th>Initial</th>
<th>Member #</th>
<th>Date</th>
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### Endorsement for Level 4 - Coast

Print First and Last Name of Timber Evaluator

has completed all the necessary competencies for Level 4.

Endorsed By - Print First and Last Name

Signature of Endorser

Endorser’s Member #  Date of Endorsement

### Endorsement for Level 4 - Interior

Print First and Last Name of Timber Evaluator

has completed all the necessary competencies for Level 4.

Endorsed By - Print First and Last Name

Signature of Endorser

Endorser’s Member #  Date of Endorsement
## Timber Cruiser Experience Log for Level 1: Compasser

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Cruising Experience (Work Code)*</th>
<th>Time Period or Date(s)</th>
<th>Number of Days</th>
<th>Number of Months¹</th>
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### Work Codes for Cruising Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Work</th>
<th>Work Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field plot work</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field quality control work</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office compilation and reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office cruise plans and project preparation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving field cruising training</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving office cruising training</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing field cruising training</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing office cruising training</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving training related to cruising; essential to the job</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing training related to cruising; essential to the job</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course development - field or office; cruising or cruising-related</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing a cruising article for publishing or cruising procedures for someone to use</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving on cruising or cruising-related committees</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attending cruising or cruising-related meetings with agendas or to resolve issues</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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2 Requires three months of mainly field experience
3 Three months field experience requires at least 45 days; one year of field and office experience requires at least 120 field days and 60 office days.
### Timber Cruiser Experience Log for Level 2: Cruiser in Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Cruising Experience (Work Code)*</th>
<th>Time Period or Date(s)</th>
<th>Number of Days</th>
<th>Number of Months</th>
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### *Work Codes for Cruising Experience*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Work</th>
<th>Work Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field plot work</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office compilation and reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office cruise plans and project preparation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving field cruising training</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving office cruising training</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing field cruising training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing office cruising training</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receiving training related to cruising; essential to the job</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing training related to cruising; essential to the job</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training course development - field or office; cruising or cruising-related</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing a cruising article for publishing or cruising procedures for someone to use</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving on cruising or cruising-related committees</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending cruising or cruising-related meetings with agendas or to resolve issues</td>
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</tbody>
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4 Requires nine months of field and office experience: six months at Level 2 and three months at Level 1.
5 Three months field experience requires at least 45 days; one year of field and office experience requires at least 120 field days and 60 office days.
## Timber Cruiser Experience Log for Level 3 Accredited Timber Cruiser

**Type of Cruising Experience (Work Code)**

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<tr>
<th>Time Period or Date(s)</th>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receiving field cruising training</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Receiving office cruising training</td>
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<td>Providing office cruising training</td>
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<td>Providing training related to cruising; essential to the job</td>
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<td>Training course development - field or office; cruising or cruising-related</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6 Requires 24 months of field and office experience: 15 months at Level 3; six months at Level 1 and three months at Level 1.
7 Three months field experience requires at least 45 days; one year of field and office experience requires at least 120 field days and 60 office days.
Timber Cruiser Experience Log for Level 4: Accredited Timber Evaluator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Cruising Experience (Work Code)*</th>
<th>Time Period or Date(s)</th>
<th>Number of Days</th>
<th>Number of Months*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Work Codes for Cruising Experience*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Work</th>
<th>Work Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field plot work</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field quality control work</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office compilation and reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office cruise plans and project preparation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving field cruising training</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving office cruising training</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing field cruising training</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing office cruising training</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving training related to cruising; essential to the job</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing training related to cruising; essential to the job</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course development - field or office; cruising or cruising-related</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing a cruising article for publishing or cruising procedures for someone to use</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serving on cruising or cruising-related committees</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending cruising or cruising-related meetings with agendas or to resolve issues</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Requires 60 months of field and office experience: 36 months at Level 4; 15 months at Level 3; six months at Level 2 and three months at Level 1.

9 Three months field experience requires at least 45 days; one year of field and office experience requires at least 120 field days and 60 office days.
## Cruising Seminar, Course Attendance and Cruising-Related Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates (DD/MM/YYYY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Cruising Workshop</td>
<td>Big Town, BC</td>
<td>02-03/05/2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>