2016 MICHIGAN SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI) QUALIFIED LOGGING PROFESSIONAL (QLP) TRAINING STANDARD

To meet the objectives of the 2015-2019 SFI Standards and Rules the Michigan Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee (IC) has approved the following guidelines for the qualified logging professional training standard.

A QLP is defined as: A person with specialized skills in timber harvesting gained through experience or formal training who has successfully completed *wood producer* training *programs* and continued education requirements recognized by *SFI Implementation Committees* as meeting the spirit and intent of *performance measure* under Objective 11 in the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* or Objective 6 in the *SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard.*

a.   Each crew must include a *qualified logging professional* who (1) has completed the *SFI Implementation Committee* approved *wood producer* training *program*; (2) is an owner of, employee of, or contracted by the *wood producer*; (3) has, direct responsibility and is on-site regularly to consistently carry out the roles and responsibilities of the *qualified logging professional* under the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard(s)* (e.g., safety, protection of soils, streams and other water bodies).

b.   All of the components of an SFI *Implementation Committee* approved *wood producer* training *program* could take several years to carry out. To be considered a *qualified logging professional*, an individual must complete the required training appropriate to their level of responsibility (e.g., owner, supervisor, employee) within the specified time period required by their *SFI Implementation Committee. SFI Implementation Committees* have the flexibility to require different training requirements for owners of logging businesses versus training requirements for other employees (e.g., supervisors). Once classified as a *qualified logging professional*, the individual must complete the required *SFI Implementation Committee* maintenance training within the prescribed time period to retain their status as a *qualified logging professional.*
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MI SFI QLP Training Standard: The following represents the components of the training standard:

- **SFE Core Training**: A QLP must complete the Michigan SIC approved SFE Core Training Program. (Appendix 1)

- **Continuing Education**: In addition, starting the calendar year following completion of the SFE Core Program, each QLP must complete a minimum of 4 hours of SFE continuing education per calendar year.

    ❖ **SFE Core training** will be accepted as continuing education credit with the following exceptions:
        - To receive continuing education hours for the SFE Core Training, individuals who have completed the training must wait 2 calendar years in order to receive continuing education hours for attending the SFE Core Training again.

    ❖ **Repeating a continuing education session** within the same calendar year will not receive continuing education hours for the repeat session.

    ❖ **Approved Electives:** SFI member companies or other approved training program sponsors must provide the MI SIC with the pertinent information on approved training programs as outlined in the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for requesting continuing education credits for SFE classes (Appendix 2).

    ❖ **Failure to attain consecutive continuing education hours:** Trained QLPs who fail to attain 4 hours of SFI training annually must attain additional training the following year(s) to maintain QLP designation as follows:
        - **1 year -** QLPs who fail to attain 4 hours of continuing education must complete 8 hours the following year to be current with their QLP designation.
        - **2 consecutive years -** QLPs who fail to attend continuing educations for two consecutive years *will have their QLP designation suspended* and must attain 12 hours of continuing education the following year to reinstate their QLP designation.
        - **3 or more consecutive years -** QLP designation is lost and individual is required to complete the SFE Core training again.

- **Record Keeping:** The Michigan Forest Products Council will provide a recordkeeping service for SFE Core training and continuing education hours for SFI member companies or SFI Licensees. MFPC maintains an online database for tracking accredited QLP training for all applicable individuals.

Appendices

Appendix 1: SFE Core Training Program
Appendix 2: SOP for CE Class Request

Michigan SFE Core Training Program

To meet the objectives of the 2015-2019 SFI Standards and Rules the Michigan Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee (SIC) has approved the following SFE Core training program to achieve the Qualified Logging Professional (QLP) designation in Michigan.

The SFE Core Logger Education Training Program is the only required course in Michigan to become a designated QLP. Once an individual completes the SFE Core Training Program, to maintain their QLP designation, they are required to complete 4 hours of continuing education per year. Loggers can choose which continuing education options that they wish to attend.

The SFE Core Logger Education Training Program is composed of five workshop modules that total approximately 14 contact hours. Upon completion of the 14 hours, a Certificate of Completion is provided to participants. Completion records are kept in a data base maintained by the MI SFI administrator. The five core workshop modules are:

Forest Ecology (2 hours)

The forest ecology module begins with an explanation for the development and establishment of SFI program. It outlines the extent of the initiative and the guidelines for successful implementation. The underlying themes are: 1) the concern and action of foresters, loggers and landowners can lead to continued long-term sustainability of our

forests for present and future needs and 2) the forest has many interconnections, many of which cannot be seen, that are vital to the maintenance of a healthy forest ecosystem.

Silviculture (1.5 hours)

The silviculture module covers the definition and application of silvicultural treatments to forest management in Michigan. The goal is to show that silviculture has developed systems for the establishment, growth and regeneration of various tree species that are intent upon ensuring stand quality, regeneration, and sustainability. The two underlying themes in this module are: 1) that silviculture is applying the knowledge of forest ecology and silvics to tree growing, and 2) that silviculture is dependent upon forest ecology concepts such as tolerance, site productivity and succession.

Sustainable Soil & Water Quality Best Management Practices (3.5 hours)

The best management practices module covers the description of how and why voluntary best management practices (BMPs) were developed for Michigan, how they can be applied during harvesting operations and how they are being monitored. This module also discusses the laws pertaining to maintaining water quality in Michigan, including when permits are needed, the requirements for permits and the public agencies responsible for issuing permits. The underlying themes in this module are: 1) that BMPs are voluntary; 2) BMPs can be used with little or no additional cost to landowner or logger in many instances; and 3) BMP implementation by loggers, foresters and landowners will be more effective for the ecological and economic sustainability of timber resources than state regulation.

Harvesting Safety Awareness (MIOSHA) (3.5 hours)

The harvesting safety awareness module stresses that timber harvesting is a dangerous occupation that can be made safer with improved adherence to safety regulations. Two underlying themes are: (1) there is a need to minimize hazards for workers, and (2) improved safety records leads to lower worker's compensation premiums. The goal is to make every participant aware of both the legal requirements and the latest safety practices to make the job site safer.

Field Application (3.5 hours or more)

The primary objective of the field day is to demonstrate and discuss many of the topics that were covered in the previous forest ecology, silviculture, and BMP modules. The underlying theme is that the combination of participant experience and knowledge with

thoughtful application will provide for the long-term sustainability of forest management in Michigan.

Appendix 2: SOP for CE Class Request

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASS REQUEST

Requesting continuing education (CE) credits for Sustainable Forestry Education (SFE) classes.

When an organization requests SFE credit the following steps will be taken:

1. Request for credit is received by MI SFI Director
2. MI SFI Director will forward the *Continuing Education Credit Request Form* to requesting organization
3. MI SFI Director will verify that all the necessary information is included on the Continuing Education Credit Request form
4. MI SFI Director will forward the form to the SFE Subcommittee for member approval
5. SFE Subcommittee members will have 5 business days to approve or deny request
6. Request will be considered approved when a majority of SFE Subcommittee members grant approval
7. MI SFI Director will inform requesting organization of class approval or denial

Approval of Credit- All SFE CE classes will be granted 4 or 8 credit hours for participation

When a class is approved the following steps will be taken:

1. MI SFI Director will send out an approval packet to the requesting organization
    a. The packet will include:
        i. Approval letter outlining the host organization requirement:
        ii. SFE Approved sign in sheet
            1. Return the sign in sheet within 30 days of class being held
            2. Ensure the handwriting is legible
            3. Have an AM and PM sign in for 8 credit hour classes

2. MI SFI Director will notify SFE Subcommittee that the letter was sent out
3. MI SFI Director will add class to an ongoing Approved SFE Class List
4. MI SFI Director will update MI SFE Database accordingly