

# 2023 MICHIGAN SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI) QUALIFIED LOGGING PROFESSIONAL (QLP) TRAINING STANDARD

To meet the objectives of the 2022 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 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 13 in the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard or Objective 6 in the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard.

1. 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 2022 Standard(s) (e.g., safety, protection of soils, streams, and other water bodies).
2. 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.

**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 MI SFI Inc, SIC contracted with MSU Forestry Innovation Center to provide recordkeeping service for SFE Core training and continuing education hours for SFI member companies or SFI Licensees. MSU FIC 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

**Appendix 1: SFE Core Training Program**



# Michigan SFE Core Training Program

To meet the objectives of the 2022 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 modules that total approximately 8 contact hours. Completion records are kept in a data base maintained by the MI SFI administrator. The five core workshop modules are:

Fiber Sourcing Standard

### The module begins details the 11 objectives outline within the 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard and highlights examples of compliance for each. Furthermore it details the performance measures where appropriate. It creates discussion as to the past, present , and future of forestry in Michigan.

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

### 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.

Harvesting Safety Awareness (MIOSHA )

### 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.

Threatened and Endangered Species

### The threatened and endangered species module covers the federal and state laws. Specific threatened and endangered species will be covered to help foresters and loggers identify species and also know next steps. Forests of exceptional conversation value and the important of biodiversity for the animals and its impact on forest health is reviewed.

Sustainable Soil & Water Quality Best Management Practices

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.

Shorter modules will highlight Climate Smart Forestry, Fire, and Indigenous Rights

## 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
   1. The packet will include:
      1. Approval letter outlining the host organization requirement:
      2. 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