



File: 13984-04/VRI Photo Interpretation  
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May 9, 2012

Dear Certified VRI and NVAF Ground Samplers:

This letter is being sent to advise you that the Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is instituting a recertification policy for the certified samplers on the VRI ground sampling and NVAF lists that we maintain. This policy is being implemented due to the large number of names on the lists who have not been active in the program for many years. For example, there are 24 samplers on the ground sampling list who have not completed a sample since 2001. Standards have changed quite a bit over the years and samplers should be keeping current with the changes in the program. The details of the recertification for both programs are below.

Effective December 1, 2012, all **certified VRI Phase II samplers** will be assigned an “**active**” or “**inactive**” certification status based on the following criteria:

**Active status (certification valid for 7 years):**

- Successful establishment of a minimum of five (5) ground samples (timber or ecology as applicable) within the previous 7 years.

**Inactive status:**

- Samplers who have not successfully established five (5) VRI ground samples within the previous seven years will have their certification status changed to “inactive”.

**Certification reactivation after certification expiry is subject to the following:**

- The candidate must pass a VRI Ground Sampling Challenge Exam.

Effective December 1, 2012, all **certified NVAF samplers** will be assigned an “**active**” or “**inactive**” certification status based on the following criteria:

**Active status (certification valid for 7 years):**

- Successful completion of a minimum of 20 trees within the previous 7 years.

**Inactive status:**

- Samplers who have not successfully completed 20 NVAF trees within the previous seven years will have their certification status changed to “inactive”.

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**Certification reactivation after certification expiry is subject to the following:**

- The candidate must pass an NVAF Certification Challenge Exam.

Samplers must have active status to be eligible to bid on contracts for the 2013 field season.

Requests for challenge exams must be received by the Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch by March 15th each year. The timing of challenge exams will be determined by the number of requests received.

The links to the certification lists for Ground sampling and NVAF are listed below.

- Ground Sampling Ecology:  
[http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/contractinfo/rpt\\_vri\\_ecology.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/contractinfo/rpt_vri_ecology.pdf)
- Ground Sampling Timber:  
[http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/contractinfo/rpt\\_vri\\_timber.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/contractinfo/rpt_vri_timber.pdf)
- NVAF:  
[http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/contractinfo/rpt\\_vri\\_nvaf.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/vri/contractinfo/rpt_vri_nvaf.pdf)

Questions concerning the year in which a sampler last completed work, or to update contact information, can be directed to:

- NVAF: Will Smith, 250-356-6853, [Will.Smith@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Will.Smith@gov.bc.ca)
- Ground Sampling: Chris Mulvihill, 250-825-1183, [Chris.Mulvihill@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Chris.Mulvihill@gov.bc.ca)

If you have any questions or comments about this change in policy, please contact me at 250-387-3650, or via email to [Pat.Martin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pat.Martin@gov.bc.ca).

Yours truly,



Pat Martin, RPF  
Manager, Forest Inventory  
Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch