



## Faller Compliance Strategy Audit (FCSA)—Fact Sheet

### Why is WorkSafeBC contacting my firm?

Your firm has been selected to participate in the Faller Compliance Strategy Audit (FCSA).

### What is the FCSA?

The Faller Compliance Strategy Audit (FCSA) is Phase III of the Integrated Forestry Compliance Strategy (IFCS), which WorkSafeBC developed in 2005. The purpose of the IFCS is to ensure that forestry stakeholders understand the cascading responsibilities for health and safety at forestry operations.

### Why is WorkSafeBC conducting the FCSA?

In 2008, seven certified fallers died due to workplace accidents. Their deaths followed two years without any fatalities. As a result, two major reviews of faller fatalities were undertaken:

1. WorkSafeBC formed an internal team to examine the reasons why faller fatalities and serious injuries were occurring. The team's findings and recommendations are contained in the report, "Occupational Health and Safety Faller Serious Injury and Fatal Review 2009."
2. In July 2009, the Chief Coroner of BC convened a Death Review Panel to examine the circumstances surrounding the deaths of three of the fatal accidents that occurred in coastal logging operations in early 2008. The Death Review Panel members represented a cross section of representatives from industry, labour, and government, including a representative from WorkSafeBC.

One of the recommendations of the WorkSafeBC internal review team was "to develop and implement a compliance audit for falling standards in planning, supervision, and worker professionalism," which they viewed as Phase III of the IFCS. WorkSafeBC had begun to develop the FCSA before the Death Review Panel made its recommendations. One of the Panel's recommendations was for "WorkSafeBC

to continue with the processes which would lead to the implementation" of the strategy.

### What is the focus of the FCSA?

The FCSA focuses on workplace accountability and responsibility for manual falling activities in forestry operations. It does this by evaluating the work of the faller supervisor and faller, and the health and safety systems, practices, and policies of the owner/prime contractor/contractor.

The FCSA is a compliance audit. As such, prevention officers will issue inspection reports and orders when they encounter non-compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and the *Workers Compensation (WC) Act*.

### What was the FCSA pilot phase?

A small group of prevention officers who inspect forestry operations around the province participated in a pilot phase of the FCSA in February and March 2011. This allowed WorkSafeBC to test the process and the tools to confirm that they work as designed and yield the information needed to evaluate the faller, supervisor, and health and safety processes of the owner/prime contractor/contractor.

### When is the FCSA being conducted?

Prevention Officers who have been trained as Qualified Supervisor Trainers (QSTs) will be conducting the audits in forestry operations throughout BC beginning in June 2011. WorkSafeBC will be conducting 90 to 100 audits throughout the province in order to obtain a representative sample of manual falling in forestry operations.

### How was my firm selected for the sample?

WorkSafeBC has considered these factors in selecting the firms to be audited:

- An analysis of manual falling activities throughout the province
- Regional Prevention Officers' knowledge of forestry activity in their areas

- Notices of forestry projects (NOPFs) from forestry employers

**What will WorkSafeBC gain from the audits?**

- The audit process will provide a baseline of manual falling in forestry operations. It will also allow WorkSafeBC to identify strengths and weaknesses in the workplace accountability systems in forestry operations so that improvements can be made and injuries and deaths prevented.
- It will provide a focussed inspection protocol for falling operations and will improve consistency in inspections of forestry operations.
- It provides opportunities to consult with and educate the workplace parties in their individual and collective health and safety responsibilities. As such, it will help improve the understanding of these responsibilities and reduce the risks associated with falling activities in the workplace.

**How will the audits be conducted?**

WorkSafeBC has developed a set of checklists to assist prevention officers conducting these audits. They will be provided with orientation and training in the use of these checklists.

**What will WorkSafeBC do with the information gathered through the audits?**

After the baseline audits have been completed and the results analysed, WorkSafeBC will develop a plan to address any issues and concerns identified through the auditing process. The plan may include recommendations to change regulatory requirements, policy, and guidelines. It may also include recommendations directed at forestry stakeholders, such as the BC Forest Safety Council.

**Does WorkSafeBC have the authority to evaluate faller practices?**

The authority to proceed with the evaluation of faller practices is given in Section 111 of the *Workers Compensation Act*. The framework for the responsibilities of employers, workers, and others is outlined in Parts 115 to 124 of the *WC Act*.