

**Readopt with amendment Fors 301.02, effective 3/13/14 (Document #10544), to read as follows:**

Fors 301.02 Application for Licensure.

(a) Each applicant for **initial** licensure shall ~~[provide, or cause to be provided, the following on a form supplied by the board:]~~ **submit “Universal Application for Initial Licensure” as required by Plc 304.01(a)(1); and**

**(b) In addition to the information required by (a) above the applicant for forester licensure shall provide on the “Addendum to the Universal Application for Initial Licensure” the following:**

~~[(1) The applicant’s name, including any names previously used;~~

~~[(2) The applicant’s residence and business addresses and telephone numbers;~~

~~[(3) The applicant’s date of birth, place of birth and citizenship;~~

~~[(4) The applicant’s dates of employment, titles of positions, and present address of employer;]~~

**(1) All names the applicant has ever been known by;**

~~[(5)]~~**(2)** [Character of] **The applicant’s employment related to forestry, for the immediately preceding 10 years,** including types of work performed and degree of responsibility;

~~[(6)]~~**(3)** Name and present address of someone familiar with each position **listed in (2) above;**

~~[(7) List of college or university credits obtained including name of institution, years attended, graduation date and certified copies of transcripts;~~

~~[(8) A listing of every state in which the applicant holds or has ever held registration/certification/licensure as a forester with corresponding number and date of initial registration/certification/licensure;~~

~~[(9) Whether the applicant has ever lost or been denied registration/ certification/licensure as a forester or disciplined by this board or another forester licensing board in any other state and if so, an explanation of the circumstances;]~~

~~[(10)]~~**(4)** Whether **or not** the registration~~[/]~~, certification~~[/]~~, licensure as a forester was issued by examination **for each of the states the applicant has ever held a license; and**

~~[(11) Whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, or violation associated with forestry or the practice of forestry including timber harvesting and incidental activities pursuant to RSA 310-A:98 IV, and if so, the name of the court, the details of the offense and the date of conviction and the sentence imposed;]~~

~~[(12)]~~**(5)** The names, complete addresses, occupation, and business relationship with the applicant of 5 references as specified in Fors 302.04;~~[-and]~~

~~[(13) The applicant’s signature.]~~

(c) Sign and date the application described in (a) above in accordance with Plc 304.05;

~~[(b)]~~**(d)** Applicants shall ~~[pay the]~~ **submit with the application the** application fee as ~~[specified in Fors 301.04.]~~ **required by Plc 1002. 16;**

**(e) The applicant for initial licensure shall submit the following documents in support of the applications described in (a) and (b) above:**

**(1) Transcripts directly from the educational institution to the OPLC or to the applicant for forwarding to the OPLC in an envelope that is evident that it has not been tampered with;**

**(2) Letters of good standing from every state where the applicant has held or has ever held a license, certification, or registration;**

**(3) A detailed explanation of any of the “yes” answers to the yes or no questions on the “Universal Application for License Renewal” including but not limited to:**

**1. Relevant court documents;**

**2. Relevant malpractice claims or suits filed; and**

**3. Relevant orders, settlements, or disciplinary documents, including the status of compliance with such documents.**

**Readopt with amendment Fors 302.01 through Fors 302.04, effective 3/13/14 (Document #10544), to read as follows:**

Fors 302.01 Candidate Requirements. Candidates for licensure shall meet the requirements established by RSA 310-A:104 before a license shall be granted. ~~[The board shall require d]~~ **D**ocumentation of the applicant’s education and work experience **shall be required** to help determine competency.

Fors 302.02 Experience Requirements.

(a) Experience in the practice of forestry shall be of a grade and character that indicates to the board that the applicant is competent to practice as a forester. If experience is claimed under Fors 302.02, an affidavit stating the dates of said employment, the types of work performed and the names and address of employers shall be provided.

(b) Experience shall be determined as follows:

(1) Applicants possessing a 4-year forestry degree shall have 2 years experience which is equivalent to 4000 hours within not less than 24 months and not more than 60 months of the date of application;

(2) Applicants possessing a 2-year forestry degree shall have 4 years experience pursuant to Fors 302.02 which is equivalent to 8000 hours within not less than 48 months and not more than 72 months of date of application;

- (3) Applicants possessing a 4-year degree in a related field shall have 4 years' experience pursuant to Fors 302.02 which is equivalent to 8000 hours within not less than 48 months and not more than 72 months of the date of application;
  - (4) Applicants possessing a 2-year degree in a related field shall have 6 years' experience pursuant to Fors 302.02 which is equivalent to 12000 hours within not less than 72 months and not more than 120 months preceding the date of application; or
  - (5) Applicants possessing no forestry or related degree shall have 8 years' experience pursuant to Fors 302.02 which is equivalent to 16000 hours within the 10-year period preceding the date of application.
- (c) Experience shall be gained under the supervision of a licensed forester or if not, written explanation shall be included with the application describing why the experience should be considered satisfactory to the board.
- (d) Experience not gained under the direction of a licensed forester shall be considered satisfactory ~~[by the board]~~ if:
- (1) Experience in the practice of forestry was earned in accordance with Fors 302.02 (f) (1), (2) and (3);
  - (2) Experience in the practice of forestry was earned without violating Fors 501.03; and
  - (3) The candidate committed no misconduct pursuant to RSA 310-A:112.
- (e) Failure of candidates whose experience is not gained under the direction of a licensed forester to meet the experience requirements of Fors 302.02 (f) (1), (2) and (3) shall, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, result in denial of the application.
- (f) Experience in the practice of forestry shall be determined pursuant to RSA 310-A:104 as follows:
- (1) A minimum of 50% of required experience shall demonstrate competency in all of the following core areas:
    - a. Preparation of comprehensive forest management plans;
    - b. Land use and forest type mapping;
    - c. Development and implementation of silvicultural prescriptions which means a planned series of treatments designed to change current stand structure to one that meets management goals;
    - d. Timber cruise and inventory;
    - e. Boundary line location and maintenance pursuant to RSA 310-A:54, IV;
    - f. Timber harvesting supervision;
    - g. Marketing of timber products;

- h. Timber sale administration;
- i. Road and harvest layout; and
- j. Knowledge of New Hampshire forestry laws.

(2) In addition to experience in core areas required per Fors 302.02 (f) (1), satisfactory experience shall be in one or more of the following areas:

- a. Land surveying;
- b. Wildlife management;
- c. Natural resource research or education;
- d. Timber stand improvement;
- e. Logging;
- f. Timber law enforcement;
- g. Log scaling;
- h. Saw milling;
- i. Forest fire control;
- j. Soil science pursuant to RSA 310:A-76, II;
- k. Arboriculture;
- l. Urban forestry;
- m. Land use planning;
- n. Conservation biology;
- o. Wetland delineation pursuant to RSA 310-A:76, II-a or;
- p. Wood procurement; or

(3) Applicants who do not meet the experience required pursuant to Fors 302.02 (f) (1) and (2) shall demonstrate experience and competency in specialty areas such as:

- a. Timberland appraisal;
- b. Teaching of forestry at a college or university level;
- c. Teaching natural resource science at a college or university level;
- d. Public extension forestry and natural resource education work, or

e. Forest policy in a governmental or management position.

(g) Experience shall be in accordance with the rules of professional conduct set forth in Fors 501. Conduct proscribed by the rules of professional conduct, when performed by an unlicensed person or during a prior period of licensure, shall result in denying a license application or issuing a restricted license.

Fors 302.03 Educational Requirements. Society of American Foresters accredited and recognized forestry degrees shall be considered forestry degrees as specified in Fors 302.02. All related degrees shall be from an institution accredited by the New England Board of Higher Education or an equivalent accrediting authority. Forestry degrees not accredited or recognized by the Society of American Foresters shall be considered related degrees. Applicants with related degrees who do not have at least college level classroom courses in silvics, silviculture, and mensuration shall take the exam, or otherwise show competency in these subject areas. Demonstration of competency shall include, but is not limited to, written work products, additional references, and college level classroom training.

Fors 302.04 References Required. Each applicant for licensure shall provide the [board] OPLC with the names and addresses of not fewer than 5 individuals, as references, not related to the applicant, of whom 3 or more shall be individuals having personal or professional knowledge of the applicant's forestry experience and 2 of these being foresters as defined by RSA 310-A:99, and one forester reference shall be an individual not connected with the applicant's current place of employment. The [board] OPLC shall use as references any individuals, companies, or institutions whose names appear in any part of the completed application.

**Readopt with amendment Fors 302.06, effective 3/13/14 (Document #10544), to read as follows:**

Fors 302.06 Additional References. The [board] OPLC shall require of the applicant the names and addresses of additional references if the original information provided by the references is unclear, incomplete, or contradictory.

**Readopt Fors 304, effective 3/13/14 (Document #10544), cited and to read as follows:**

PART Fors 304 RECIPROCITY

Fors 304.01 Reciprocity. Reciprocity shall be granted to licensed, certified, and registered foresters from states whose requirements, for licensure, certification, and registration are comparable to the requirements of RSA 310-A as it relates to forestry and the practice of forestry.

**Repeal Fors 305.02, effective 3/13/14 (Document #10544), and renumber Fors 305.03 as Fors 305.02, as follows:**

~~[Fors 305.02 Pocket Cards. Biennially, the board shall issue a licensure card, numbered to correspond with the forester's assigned number to each licensed forester upon renewal of the license. The card shall certify that the forester holds a license in good standing and is authorized to practice forestry to the date of expiration as shown on the card.]~~

**APPENDIX**

| <b>Rule</b>               | <b>Specific State Statute the Rule Implements</b> |
|---------------------------|---|
| Fors 301.02               | RSA 310-A:104, I-V                                |
| Fors 302.01 – Fors 302.04 | RSA 310-A:102, II; RSA 310-A:104                  |
| Fors 302.06               | RSA 310-A:102, II; RSA 310-A:104                  |
| Fors 304                  | RSA 310-A:111                                     |
| Fors 305.02 (repeal)      | RSA 310-A:107                                     |