

Professional Practice Standard for Wetland Science, Design and Engineering

As of June 1, 2016, Alberta Environment and Parks will begin to transition toward a requirement for professional authentication for regulatory documents submitted under the Alberta Wetland Policy. This is to provide assurance to Albertans that wetlands are being managed to the highest possible professional standard.

In order to authenticate a regulatory document submitted in accordance with the Alberta Wetland Policy, an individual must possess a professional or technical designation from one of the following Professional Regulatory Organizations:

- Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA),
- Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA),
- Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA),
- Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI),
- Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASBP),
- Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA),
- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA),
- Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET),
- College of Alberta Professional Foresters (CAPF), or
- College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists (CAPFT)

Each Professional Regulatory Organization has specific requirements for attaining and maintaining a professional or technical designation.

In addition to holding a professional designation, a practitioner must meet specific competency and professional experience requirements in order to authenticate regulatory documents.

Practitioners who do not meet these requirements can continue to work in the field of wetland science, design and engineering so long as documents submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks under the Alberta Wetland Policy are authenticated by a qualified practitioner.

Alberta Environment and Parks is collaborating with these organizations to develop a new Practice Standard for Wetland Science, Design, and Engineering which will clearly outline authentication requirements. It is expected that this report will be complete by June 1, 2016. This will be followed by a short transition period of three months (June 1 to September 1, 2016).

It is the responsibility of each regulated professional to ensure they meet specifications of their Professional Regulatory Organization to demonstrate competency in their practice area. Competency is generally a combination of education and practical experience.

Specific training will be considered by the Professional Regulatory Organizations following the finalization of the Practice Standards. All qualifications and ongoing requirements will be managed through each Professional Regulatory Organization.

The title Qualified Wetland Science Practitioner (QWSP), as identified in the Alberta Wetland Policy, is applied to describe a specific level of expertise and accountability and is not an official designation. Rather, individuals will operate as designated members of their Professional Regulatory Organizations in a practice area specific to wetland science, design and engineering. This will be in addition to any other existing practice areas within which a practitioner may already operate.

For more information, please contact your respective Professional Regulatory Organization.