

SC TOP Program - 2012 Revision

This year will bring a new look to the SC Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Program originally created in 1994. The program assists loggers and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified companies to provide essential training to address environmental issues. Based on feedback from SFI TOP Trained individuals and other factors, the SC TOP Task Force has decided to revise the training requirements and program administration.

Details are being finalized to make the program requirements simplified and easy to understand. New logger training topics required by the SFI 2010-2014 Standard will be incorporated into this revision. Basic requirements for the newly revised TOP program include the following elements.

- All participants will have a common annual expiration date of June 30th. The first expiration date for current TOP SFI Trained individuals is June 30, 2013.
- All participants will be required to view a SC TOP Task Force produced training DVD annually. Viewing sessions will be offered and coordinated by approved facilitators.
- All participants will pay an annual fee to maintain current TOP SFI Trained status. The SC TOP Task Force will use fees to pay for DVD production costs and various program administrative expenses.
- After implementation, any TOP SFI Trained individual that does not view the training DVD and pay their annual fee by the June 30th expiration date must complete the 3-Day TOP class and pay the fee to reinstate their TOP SFI Trained status.
- Implementation will begin July 1, 2012.

The forestry community relies heavily on TOP SFI Trained loggers and other forestry professionals to accomplish the great work they do in the woods every day. These changes will make TOP training easier to accomplish and more relevant to the issues facing our forestry community. Thank you for your understanding and support in this transition.

Further information and details can be found on the SCFA website at www.scforestry.org/TrainingEducation/LoggerTraining.aspx or by contacting Sally Tucker at 803-798-4170 or sally@scforestry.org.