



## Qualified Companies - An Introduction

### About Qualified Companies

Time and again results have proven that safe companies are more productive and more profitable. How can large and small companies make a commitment to safety and make that commitment pay?

In January 2004, the Forest Safety Task Force, made up of licensees, associations, union leaders, independent contractors and government recommended that forest companies which meet certain safety criteria should be eligible for discounts on their WCB rates.

The BC Forest Industry is making this happen. The Qualified Companies Project will give companies a way to become **SAFE** – a **Safety Accord Forestry Enterprise** – and benefit from lower costs, improved safety performance and shared knowledge.

### SAFE Companies

Becoming a SAFE Company will be simple: companies will undergo an audit that evaluates their health and safety program. Audits will be scaled to suit both small and large companies. Once an audit is successfully completed, the company will receive its SAFE designation.

SAFE Companies will be entitled to earn a 5% rebate on WCB Premiums. Rebate currently exist in Oil and Gas, Construction, and Agriculture and WCB has indicated these benefits will be extended to other sectors in BC. Further discount may be available based on improved safety records (fewer WCB claims) on an annual basis. SAFE Companies also gain to maximum their Experience Rating Adjustments, further reducing their premiums. As more companies become SAFE, overall industry safety will improve, bringing down general WCB rates for everyone in the industry.

SAFE companies will be leaders in changing the safety culture of the industry as a whole.

Qualified Companies is also building a web of communication and information sharing that will support companies working to improve safety performance. Assistance in conducting incident investigations and the development of common Industry Recognized Practices are two examples of tools that will help all operators.

The Qualified Companies Project and the SAFE Companies concept will undergo a lot of development over the next couple of months. We will be looking for your ideas, endorsement and support.