

*This is a sample letter provided to a Level 1 student that **passed**.*

You will see that the auditor provided detailed information and feedback to the student about various aspects of the marking. This feedback is critical to ensure that students understand what the auditor observed and any additional improvements they can make in the future.

Your letter should be emailed to the CIF along with the Audit Report. They will share the results and your letter with the student.

<Your header information>

<Date>

<L1 student name>

<Address>

Dear <name>:

SUBJECT: Tree Marking Certification – Field Audit

On <date>, I conducted an audit of the tree marking work that you had completed in the <property name and location>. During the audit we looked at 10 prism plots that gave a good indication of the variability of the stand and included <#> trees for assessment. I assessed your Tree Marking Quality (TMQ) at 97.0% and your Paint Mark Quality (PMQ) at 100%. This meets the 95% mark that is expected for a clear pass and I am pleased to inform you that you have qualified to receive a Level 1 Tree Marking Course Certificate.

The attached Audit Report, indicates that the current stand basal area is 33.6 m²/ha, which is fairly close to the 30.44 m²/ha that was found during the pre-harvest stand analysis. The Audit Report shows that you appropriately adjusted your marking to match the slightly higher BA found in the audit plots. Your residual BA of 21.8 m²/ha was slightly above the prescribed target of 20.11 m²/ha and that is satisfactory. The 35.1% BA removal rate is very close to the 1/3rd parameter given in the prescription. As well, you have an excellent eye for quality improvement and your marking has made a 21.2% positive change in the AGS/UGS ratio (59.5% AGS vs. 80.7% AGS).

In Table 1 there is a summary of the Basal Area distributions recorded at the various stages of this work. Compared to the pre-harvest inventory, the audit plots had four times as much BA in the large sawlog size class and 25% less in the poles. You adjusted your marking accordingly, leaving a well balanced structure for future growth and development.

Table 1. Summary of Basal Area Distributions in m²/ha.

BA Source	Poles	SmSaw	MedSaw	LgSaw	Total
Pre-Harvest	10.4	10.9	7.8	1.1	30.2
MNR Audit Pre-Harvest	7.8	10.4	9.2	6.2	33.6
Prescription Target	7.0	6.0	6.0	1.1	20.1
Audit Residual	4.8	7.2	5.6	4.2	21.8

Infractions

This tree marking was very well done. Of the 168 trees evaluated we found 5 that I considered to have infractions related to quality. One tree was a very nice quality AGS small sawlog sugar maple in Plot #5 that should have been left in favour of a lower quality tree close by, in the same plot. The other 4 quality infractions were situations where UGS trees were left in plots that could have benefited from the stand

improvement and reduced density. In general you should remove UGS trees whenever spacing, diameter class distribution and wildlife considerations will permit and especially ones that have infectious conks and cankers.

Habitat and Biodiversity Considerations

This woodlot contains a good supply of cavity and mast trees and also some areas of conifer. You did an excellent job of retaining both cavity and mast trees well above the Provincial targets of 10 each per hectare. The conifers did not fall into any of our plots. For the most part you kept the better quality cavities, however in one case there was a lower quality cavity retained over one of better quality ones in the same area. You also did a great job of retaining and buffering the stick nest found near Plot #2. I could see that you were leaving healthy trees of each species including trees from less common species such as black cherry, beech, white ash, ironwood and basswood.

Summary

It was a pleasure to conduct this audit of you. It is clear to me that you have fulfilled the task of gaining good tree marking experience with a supportive crew. I feel you are using a very thorough approach that demonstrated the ability to adjust your marking according to the conditions that you encountered. I appreciated your attention to all the details including wildlife considerations and using good paint application technique. Congratulations on your certificate. If you have any questions about your audit, give me a call.

Yours truly,

<Level 2 Auditor name>

<Contact information>