

## **Enforcement of The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015**

The Sarawak Government, through Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), had requested the Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to implement training for forestry workmen under an integrated training system for the State since 1991. Subsequently, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT), a wholly owned subsidiary company of STA, was incorporated in May 2005 with the primary objective to develop and implement skills training.

STAT was officially appointed as the Training Provider by FDS on 19 December 2016 to train and assess the competency of forestry workmen.

As a Training Provider, STAT was tasked to impart theoretical and practical skills to forestry workmen as well as knowledge on safety and health, environmental and sustainability issues related to forestry activities with the objectives to fulfil the requirements of Section 51(1) of *The Forests Ordinance, 2015* (Ordinance) that *“No employer shall hire, engage or appoint any workman under a contract of service or of apprenticeship or under any other arrangement whatsoever, to carry out, undertake or perform any forestry activity unless that workman has successfully completed a course of training in such forestry activity which is conducted by an institution approved by the Director in consultation with the Minister”*; and under the said Ordinance through Rule 4(1) of *The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015* (The Rules) *“No workman shall carry out, undertake or perform any prescribed forestry activity unless he has successfully completed a training course as specified in the First Schedule for that prescribed forestry activity and holds a valid Certificate issued by a Training Provider”*.

The five (5) prescribed forestry activity (PFA) skills sets are:

1. Certificate in Tree Felling – Chainsaw (Natural Forest)
2. Certificate in Log Extraction – Tractor (Natural Forest)
3. Certificate in Log Loading – Front End Loader (Natural Forest)
4. Certificate in Clear-fell Site Preparation – Chainsaw (Forest Plantation)
5. Certificate in Mechanical Site Preparation – Excavator (Forest Plantation)

Besides the PFA skills sets, STAT also offers other skills sets such as:

6. Certificate in Tree Felling – Chainsaw (Forest Plantation)
7. Certificate in Log Extraction – Bulldozer (Forest Plantation)
8. Certificate in Log Extraction – Cable Hauler (Forest Plantation)
9. Certificate in Breaking Out – Cable Hauler (Forest Plantation)
10. Certificate in Log Loading – Excavator (Forest Plantation)
11. Certificate in Tree and Log Identification
12. Certificate in Log and Timber Identification

Pursuant to Rule 4(4) of The Rules *“Notwithstanding sub-rule (1), the Director with the approval of the Minister may, from time to time, by notification in the Gazette, specify the percentage of workmen required to be trained by an employer every year for each prescribed forestry activity according to the training course as specified in the First Schedule upon the coming into force of these Rules”*, the Sarawak

Government has set a target that all forestry workmen under the 5 PFA are obliged to be trained by end of year 2020.

In order to fulfil this said target, members and non-members of STA are reminded to nominate their forestry workmen to undergo training for the 5 PFA and other skills sets offered by STAT.

Meanwhile, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) as the Training Agent has started to conduct inspection and verification on the trained workmen at camp site to ensure compliance to Section 49 of the Ordinance and The Rules. They ascertain that the performance of the forestry workman is consistent with the instruction and training provided by STAT in accordance with the Sarawak Modular Training Framework as well as record or filing of details of trained workmen are updated and complete.

On top of that, FDS is also conducting verification of the identity of the workmen undergoing training/assessment on the ground during the assessment by trainers/assessors of STAT.