BC Institute of Agrologists

APPLICATION GUIDE

For Limited License Agrologist / LLAg

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For questions, please contact BCIA:

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Are You Eligible?

The BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA) regulates agrology professionals in BC, including Professional Agrologists (PAg), Articling Agrologists (AAg), Technical Agrologists (TAg), and Articling Technical Agrologists (ATAg).

One must be registered with BCIA to practise professional agrology in BC. A Limited License offers a restricted practice route for applicants who do not meet the requirements for the other professional designations.

Review the requirements below to assess your eligibility. The work experience must fall within the regulated practice of agrology.

Registration exemptions apply to:

- a normal farm practice, as defined in the Farm Practice Protection (Right to Farm) Act, by a person on the person's own land; or
- a person, or their agent, who gives advice based on information provided to them by a practicing registrant, regarding the quality or use of a product or service that is offered for sale.

What is a Limited License?

BCIA established the Limited License Agrologist (LLAg) category to strengthen regulatory oversight of agrology and protect the public interest in British Columbia's environment and natural resources.

This category is for individuals who may lack the educational qualifications for PAg or TAg registration but have several years of experience and are qualified to take professional responsibility for a defined, limited scope of agrology work.

Limited licensees are governed by the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) and its regulations, BCIA Bylaws, and the BCIA Code of Ethics.

What is the Practice of Agrology?

The *Agrologists Regulation* defines the practice of agrology as:

1(a)Advice or services that

i are based on agricultural or natural sciences or agricultural or resource economics and
ii relate to:
(A) Cultivation, production, improvement, processing, marketing or management of aquatic or terrestrial plants or animals,
(B) Classification, management, use, conservation, protection or enhancements of aquatic, terrestrial or atmospheric ecosystems that are affected by, sustain or have the potential to sustain the cultivation or production of aquatic or terrestrial plants or animals, or
(C) Restoration, reclamation or remediation of aquatic, terrestrial or atmospheric ecosystems

(b) Advice or Services that are ancillary to those described in paragraph (a)

For purposes of the stipulation of reserved practice, the above-noted provisions can be referred to as "agrology purposes".

What is an Agrologist?

Agrologists support environmental protection and provide business information and services informed by resource economics. They work in food production, agro-tech, and ecosystem sustainability as scientists, educators, inspectors, technicians, consultants, and managers. Agrologists are:

- regulated by legislation
- sworn to a code of ethics
- mandated to protect the public interest
- committed to continuing professional development

How is a Limited Practice Area Defined?

A limited practice area must fall within agrology as defined in the *Agrologists Regulation*. Only registrants holding one of the four protected designations—PAg, AAg, TAg, or ATAg—may assume responsibility for services prescribed in legislation. A limited licensee's services may not be substitutable for those of these registrants; BCIA will review conflicts as they arise.

A limited license authorizes a specialized function or an activity confined to a specific product or application. Use the "Intended Practice Area" form to define your scope. It must be task-oriented, specific, clearly defined, quantifiable against common standards, and explicit about inclusions and exclusions. Submit the completed form with the application.

What are the Academic Requirements?

LLAg eligibility is primarily based on employment experience in the regulated practice of agrology. If applicable, include any post-secondary education in your application so BCIA can assess whether another type of registration is more appropriate or whether education qualifies for experience credit (see below). If requested, arrange for your academic institutions to send original sealed transcripts directly to BCIA for completed coursework, including bachelor's and postgraduate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Transcripts must show courses, marks, credits, and qualifications awarded.

BCIA may also request course descriptions.

What are the Experience Requirements?

LLAg applicants must have at least five (5) years of full-time equivalent experience in the regulated practice of agrology, subject to the following:

a) a minimum of two (2) years must be within the scope of work to which the prospective Limited Licence will apply; and
b) at the discretion of the Registrar, up to one (1) year of accredited education in the practice of agrology may be counted toward the required five (5) years of experience.

Work Experience Details – Recommended Format

Submit a completed Work History form **and** a detailed resume with month/year dates. Use the recommended format below to document your experience:

Period Number:

Start Date: (month/year) **End Date: (month/year)**
Name of Company: **Applicant's Title:**
Supervisor's Name: **Supervisor's Position**

Activities:

Describe your main activities, duties, skills, techniques, and level of responsibility for each period. Identify periods of unemployment or work outside agrology. Include each supervisor's name, title, and address.

References

Nominate at least two references with first-hand knowledge of the work in a supervisory or review capacity. At least one must be a registrant in good standing with a professional organization under the PGA, including BCIA.

Experience outside Canada is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must be verified, and additional references will be requested.

References must be able to verify the level and performance of the agrology work and endorse the proposed practice area. Confirming the willingness before nominating them. Send each reference the reference form, proposed practice area, and work details summary. Each reference sends their form directly to BCIA.

Next Steps After Applying

Once all documents are received, BCIA will review the experience, and education if applicable, to determine eligibility. BCIA *may* require additional experience or competencies to address deficiencies.

Successful applicants must complete the required duties and responsibilities within a specified timeframe, that includes the following courses:

a. **Orientation to BCIA** course
b. **Professional Negligence and Regulatory Offences** course
c. **BCIA Ethics for Professional Workshop** course
d. **Foundational Indigenous Awareness Training** course

Approved applicants remain on temporary hold until they complete all **LLAg Admission Program** duties and responsibilities and notify BCIA. Full status is then granted, permitting use of the Limited License Agrologist (LLAg) title and a professional seal (purchased separately).

Registration fees apply in the year of joining and annually thereafter, according to the current Fee Schedule.

Term of the License

The license is renewed annually upon payment of the registration fee. Registrants must meet minimum professional development (PD) hours under BCIA policies and guidelines. ***The LLAg designation is transitional and applies to the individual, not the position. When an LLAg leaves, the employer must fill the position with an appropriate BCIA registrant holding one of the other four regulated designations.***

Professional Liability Insurance

Professional liability insurance is strongly recommended. BCIA offers a package through HUB International Insurance; details are available through your registrant account.

Checklist

Submit the following with your LLAg application:

- ❑ Completed application form, including payment
- ❑ Intended Practice Area form
- ❑ Work History form detailing each position in chronological order, with month/year dates
- ❑ Resume with month/year dates for each position
- ❑ Completed reference forms; provide your references with your work experience details, resume, and Intended Practice Area
- ❑ List of projects demonstrating experience in your limited practice area, if requested
- ❑ Original transcripts sent directly to BCIA by the academic institution, if applicable