Who are Northeast Master Loggers?

**Who?** Maine was the first place in the world with a point-of-harvest Master Logger Certification program, offering third-party independent certification of logging companies’ harvesting practices. The certification system is built around performance standard that has been cross-referenced to all of the world’s major green certification systems, and has been adopted by several other North American states and Canadian provinces. In 2007 the Maine MLC program became the Northeast Master Logger Certification Program (NEMLC) to include loggers in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York. While companies range in size from large contractors to small, independent sole proprietors, together they represent all areas of the northeast.

**Why?** To compete successfully in a global marketplace, we believe that Northeastern harvesting companies and other forest professionals must demonstrate that they set a world standard for economic AND environmental performance. To do this, a profession’s essential practices must be defined and each company must be certified to an exemplary standard. The performance standard must be based on performance in the forest and through business practices. Once that performance is recognized, harvesting companies can move forward as an equal partner with others to ensure economic viability for all rural communities.

**When?** Rather than be swept along by the changes occurring in the global marketplace, the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine decided in 2000 to reinvent their profession and hold it to a world-leading standard of excellence. Their success has attracted national and international attention. In 2002, this pioneering effort in designing and implementing the NEMLC program was unanimously adopted as the national model for logger certification by the 27 state associations in the American Loggers Council.

**What?** The content of NEMLC is based on a common vision for communities and forest resources of the northeast. The nine goals guide loggers in their work: Document Harvest Planning, Protect Water Quality, Maintain Soil Productivity, Sustain Forest Ecosystems, Manage Forest Aesthetics, Ensure Workplace Safety, Demonstrate Continuous Improvement, Ensure Business Viability and Uphold Certificate Integrity. These are detailed more with harvest responsibilities and explicit performance standards under each goal.

Field verifiers visit actual harvest sites to determine whether candidates for NEMLC are meeting and exceeding the required performance standard. Their findings are submitted to an independent board that makes the final decision. To remain certified, each company must be recertified after two years and every 4 years if without incident. Random audits are performed between recertifications, encouraging the upgrading of skills within the company, continuous improvement, and an attitude of partnership with other forest professionals and their associations. In 2005, the MLC program was recognized by the Rainforest Alliance’s SmartWood program with the first ever SmartLogging certificate. This certificate represents an independent, global recognition of the integrity of the Master Logger standard. If a Master Logger wishes to continue to obtain certification for Chain of Custody they may apply to do so.

**Where?** As of 2011, the New England states, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, 3 Canadian provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island) and Japan have Master Logger programs based on this model.
Would you say... “I think my company has done Master Logger work for a long time!” Of course you have, but the world is looking for new assurances of your commitment to excellence. As you well know, harvesting is not just about “cutting trees.” Harvesting companies are asked to efficiently extract the resource and minimize impacts to the environment. NEMLC enables your company (sole proprietor or contractor with employees) to be certified by a third-party system that is recognized regionally, nationally, and even internationally. NEMLC is recognized by industry, their customers, and international accrediting organizations.

Now for the best news...you won’t need to attend any classes to earn Master Logger Certification. MLC respects your work and will validate what you already know and consistently do. Take a moment to look at the Master Logger Certification Program standard and ask yourself if you can support it should you choose to become a Master Logger Company. You will likely find that the work you do every day is reflected in the vision, principles, and goals, and that you already have what it takes to join an elite group of professional wood harvesters!

Some Pre-requisites

- 60-100% of annual harvest income derived from point-of-harvest, tree-to-landing, logging activities
- Demonstrate a logging history that meets NEMLC standard
- Provide 3 references willing to attest to your professionalism

Northeast Master Logger Goals & Standard

In order to provide logging companies with a definitive, measurable means of achieving certification, NEMLC developed a standard, outlined by nine goals, the end to which all efforts of harvesting are directed. The goals are further defined by harvest responsibilities, each with its’ own set of performance standards. This standard when met, enable a company to achieve the nine goals and earn NEMLC certification.

NEMLC Goals

- Document Harvest Planning
- Protect Water Quality
- Maintain Soil Productivity
- Sustain Forest Ecosystems
- Manage Forest Aesthetics
- Ensure Workplace Safety
- Demonstrate Continuous Improvement
- Ensure Business Viability
- Uphold Certificate Integrity

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