

Forest and forest products industry skills shortages strategy

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The forest and forest products industry is confronting significant challenges in terms of finding an adequate number of potential employees with the skills required to meet the industry's expanding and changing needs. To assist in addressing this need a forest industry skills audit has been funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) as part of their Strategic Intervention Programme.

What will the audit achieve?

An audit of the current and future skills requirements is essential to the development of a strategy to address skills shortages in the industry. The current level of knowledge about the forest industry's workforce is inadequate. It is anticipated that the skills audit would form the basis of an industry specific skills policy (to be developed in the second phase of the project).

Components of the audit

- Current and projected regional skills shortages incorporating aspects such as changes in resource supply and the introduction of new innovations
- Identification of common skills shortages and training needs of the forest and forest products industry with those identified for other industries and regions
- Consideration of whether the revised industry training package will meet the future needs of the forest and forest product's industry
- Assessment of why the forest, timber and paper industries have trouble attracting people
- Consider the current opportunities and barriers to industry workers acquiring new skills

Who will carry out the audit?

The National Association of Forest Industries and A3P will carry out the audit. It is expected that the audit will be completed by June 2006.

How will the audit take place?

This skills audit will involve extensive industry consultation to ensure that the results are reliable and useful for the forest and forest products industry. The bulk of this consultation will take place in February 2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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