

2022 Reserved Practice Compliance Plan

The British Columbia Institute of Agrologists "BCIA" is the regulatory body responsible for the governance of the profession of agrology within the province of British Columbia as designated and continued by the *Professional Governance Act* ("PGA").

Section 22 of the *PGA* stipulates that BCIA has the responsibility to superintend its regulated practice and to protect reserved titles and reserved practices for the protection of the public interest.

The professional titles reserved for the profession of agrology are as follows; Professional Agrologist (PAg), Articling Agrologist (AAg), Technical Agrologist (TAg), Articling Technical Agrologist (ATAg), and Limited License Agrologist (LLAg).

After September 1, 2022, certain activities within the 12 practice areas that comprise the profession of agrology in British Columbia will be reserved exclusively for individuals registered with BCIA ("Registrants").



Consequently, subsequent to September 1, 2022, it is an infringement for an individual to use any of the protected titles, or present themselves as having such a professional designation, or provide advice or services which are reserved to BCIA Registrants unless they are registered with BCIA, thus becoming what is titled a Registrant.

This will ensure that individuals providing agrology services meet the professional, ethical, and competency standards required by the profession for the protection of the public interest within British Columbia.



Compliance Plan

This brief compliance plan is intended to provide information on compliance and enforcement activities respecting protected titles and reserved practices, which will be consistently enforced after September 1, 2022.

Foundational Principles

Accountability: BCIA is accountable to the people of British Columbia to ensure that its compliance and enforcement are consistent with the *PGA*.

Fairness, consistency, and objectivity: Compliance actions are applied in a fair and consistent manner, and all actions will be carried out in a reasonable, professional, and unbiased manner.

Transparency: All compliance activities are well-defined, clear, and understandable to Registrants and the public.

Risk-based approach: Compliance actions will be prioritized and possibly accelerated based on the potential harm to public safety and/or the environment.

Reserved Practice: Compliance & Enforcement



Compliance activities will be comprised of separate but concurrent activities as follows:

Compliance Education

Educate the public and potential Registrants as to the requirements of BCIA's registration process. Tools will include extensive social media campaigns and concurrent informational webinars to highlight the needs and benefits of registration.

Compliance Identification

Identify individuals that may be providing agrology services within the province and ensure the registration of those individuals where appropriate.

Any individual identified as engaging in the improper use of a reserved title and/or engaging in reserved practice shall be provided with appropriate registration information.

Enforcement

Application of any of the remedies allowed by the *PGA*, including but not limited to the prosecution of any individual who refuses to become a Registrant after receiving the pertinent information from BCIA.



As of September 1, 2022, BCIA will begin to enforce protected titles and reserved practices using a phased approach to bring non-registrants into compliance with the *PGA* where appropriate.

BCIA recognizes that non-registrants may require assistance to attain full compliance. Consequently, BCIA will provide;

- Online reserved practice information sessions between August to December 2022, and additional sessions may be held upon request after January 1, 2023;
- After September 1, 2022, assist non-registrants identified by BCIA in determining whether registration is required by providing support and education to those who are allegedly practicing in those areas;
- Provide any non-registrant that has not applied for registration within a reasonable period of time after being advised by the BCIA that registration is required with a cease and desist registered letter, which will include a specific date after which BCIA may commence a prosecution for noncompliance; and
- After March 1, 2023, actively search for non-registrants practicing within agrology's reserve practice and/or presenting themselves as Registrants and following the process listed above for those individuals.



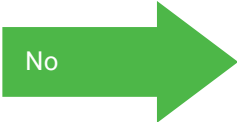
Identification of Title Infringement

The following diagram provides directions to assist individuals in determining whether a potential infringement of reserved title should be reported to BCIA.



BCIA'S PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING TITLE INFRINGEMENT

Is the individual using or presenting themselves as having a professional title reserved for Registrants of the BCIA as identified in the Agrologists Regulation?



No Reserved Title Infringement



Is the BCIA Registrant using the reserved title category that is associated with their name on the BCIA register?



Report the Individual to BCIA.
*Once reported BCIA has jurisdiction over enforcing Reserved Title and will follow the compliance processes outlined publicly on the BCIA website.



No Reserved Title Infringement



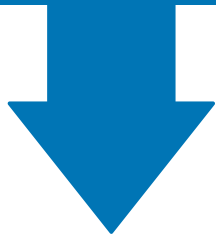
BCIA's Process to Enforce Reserved Title

The following diagram outlines BCIA's process for reserved title infringement. The first step toward compliance is always education and awareness of reserved titles.



BCIA RECEIVES AN ALLEGATION OF RESERVED TITLE INFRINGEMENT

BCIA will contact the alleged offender and provide a reasonable opportunity to provide information respecting the allegation of infringement. If no information is provided or if BCIA determines from the information that an infringement has occurred, the following chart outlines the process BCIA will follow.



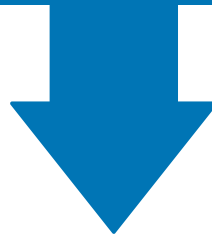
The individual is a BCIA Registrant using a reserved title under the Agrologists Regulation that they are not authorized to use.

BCIA will inform the Registrant that they must use the correct reserved title.

If non-compliance continues...



BCIA will take enforcement action.

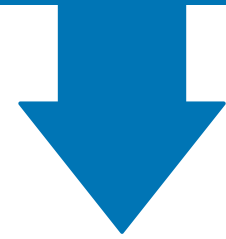


The individual is not a Registrant of a regulatory body. BCIA will issue a cease-and-desist letter.

If non-compliance continues...



BCIA will take enforcement action and prosecute, if required.



The individual is a Registrant of another regulatory body.

BCIA will contact and work with the regulatory body/association to inform the Registrant that they must cease-and-desist using a reserved title.

If non-compliance continues...



BCIA will work with the regulatory body & take enforcement action and prosecute, if required.

Reserved Practice Infringement



BCIA'S PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING PRACTICE INFRINGEMENT

The following diagram provides direction to assist individuals in determining whether a potential infringement of reserved practice should be reported to BCIA.

Do you think the individual is providing advice or services within the reserved practice of agrology as defined within the appropriate practice areas?



Are you able to confirm/corroborate (e.g. documents, communication, or reliable anecdotal evidence) that the individual maybe providing reserved practice advice or services as defined in the Agrologists Regulation?



Is the individual a BCIA Registrant with reserved practice rights under the Agrologists Regulation within the appropriate practice areas (this information can be found by reference to the list of Registrants on the BCIA website).



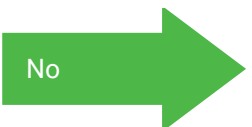
No Reserved Practice Infringement



No Reserved Practice Infringement



Without confirmation/corroboration or reliable anecdotal evidence reserved practice infringement is difficult to determine.



Report the individual to BCIA and provide confirmation/corroboration (e.g., documents, communication, or reliable anecdotal evidence).

*Once reported, BCIA has jurisdiction over enforcing reserved practice infringement and will follow the compliance process as outlined publically on the BCIA website.



BCIA's Process to Enforce Reserved Practice

The following outlines BCIA's process for reserved practice infringement. The first step toward compliance is always education and awareness of reserved practice.



BCIA RECEIVES AN ALLEGATION OF RESERVED PRACTICE INFRINGEMENT

Confirmation/corroboratorion (e.g., documents, communication, or reliable anecdotal evidence) is provided or available to BCIA. BCIA will contact the alleged offender and provide a reasonable opportunity to provide information respecting the allegation of infringement. If no information is provided or if BCIA determines from the information that an infringement has occurred, the following chart outlines the process BCIA will follow.



The report is dismissed. Without confirmation or collaboration or reliable anecdotal evidence, reserved practice infringement is unable to be determined.



The individual is a BCIA Registrant practicing outside of their declared practice areas.
BCIA will contact and work with the individual to ensure compliance with the correct practice areas.



The individual is not a Registrant of a regulatory body or association.
BCIA will provide information to ensure compliance within a reasonable period of time.



The individual is a Registrant of a regulatory body. BCIA will work with the regulatory body to find the appropriate solution and, if necessary, bring their Registrant into compliance with the Agrologists Regulation.



If non-compliance continues, BCIA will take enforcement action.



If non-compliance continues, BCIA will take enforcement action and prosecute, if required.



If non-compliance continues, BCIA will work with the regulatory body and take enforcement action if required. An individual who does not have reserved practice authorization must either become a Registrant who is authorized or work under the supervision of a BCIA Registrant who is if they are providing advice and services under the reserved practice as outlined in the Agrologists Regulation.