



**UNDERGROUND FACILITY LOCATOR COMPETENCY PROFILE**

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The Underground Facility Locator (UFL) Competency Profile (CP) was developed for the Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC). CAPULC will create a Competency Profile Committee (CPC) to review the Competency Profile and to send the CP out for public review and comment. CAPULC members may request to join the CPC by emailing [competencies@capulc.ca](mailto:competencies@capulc.ca).

Version 1.0 – 2015

### DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this Competency Profile is intended for general application only and is not intended for use as a complete reference. Terms used in this Competency Profile may vary between facility owners/operators and jurisdictions. It is not a definitive guide to government regulations nor is it a guide to the practices and procedures wholly applicable to every locate circumstance. The appropriate regulations, company-specific work practices and manufacturers' equipment instructions must be consulted and applied with due diligence. The Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC) and Locate Management assume no responsibility whatsoever, for any injury, loss or damage arising from its use.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The competencies were developed by Locate Management for Underground Facility Locators (UFLs) with the assistance from the Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC) members, industry, facility owner/operators. Their collective input and dedication to the development of the UFL Competency Profile are greatly appreciated by CAPULC.

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### INTRODUCTION

This first edition of the Underground Facility Locator (UFL) Competency Profile (CP) specifies locator training skills in an effort to increase the accuracy and reliability of locates. The UFL is responsible for locating and marking underground facility lines within urban and rural settings, and for creating and updating maps and records indicating the approximate alignment of underground facilities. The Competency Profile contains over 3,200 skills — UFL's should require the competencies associated within their specific industry sector(s) and/or jurisdiction(s). These competencies do not preclude the UFL from demonstrating and achieving additional tasks that the employer or facility owner/operator deem necessary or beneficial.

The Competency Profile identifies every day work tasks that make up the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and technology that locators use to accomplish their day to day employment.

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The **UFL Competency Cycle** consists of three stages:

1. Knowledge development (preferably industry specific) course(s),
2. Industry specific field training (hands-on or OJT), and
3. Industry specific final assessment (verification of knowledge and skills).

When the UFL completes all three stages, the UFL will have the necessary knowledge and skills to work within an industry specific sector(s).

The CP includes general skills for safety, personal protective equipment (PPE) and environmental considerations relating to underground facility locating; however, UFL's must adhere to applicable safety and environmental requirements within their industry specific sector(s) and/or jurisdiction(s).

The content of the Competency Profile will be revised with advances in technology, education and training, industry feedback and regulatory changes.

### OCCUPATIONAL DESIGNATION

In 2013, a Task Force consisting of various industry stakeholder groups submitted an application for Underground Facility Locator (UFL) Designated Occupation to Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education.

The proposed designation will have a beneficial impact on:

- \* Workers; through increased worker safety, career viability, and job security
- \* Employers; through improved competency, reduced safety risk and standardized credentials
- \* Society; through increased public safety, and positive environmental impact

Designated Occupations have established competencies and, as such, the Underground Facility Locator Competency Profile encompasses the competencies of the Underground Facility Locator Designated Occupation.

## DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Underground Facility Locators may be responsible for locating, marking and mapping the approximate alignment of buried facilities. This may include consultation with facility owners/operators, ground disturbers, landowners, one-call centres, and the public; investigation (research) of underground facility information sources (maps, survey plans, drawings, etc.); visual inspection of the work area (buildings, infrastructure, etc.); implementation of safe work processes and locating procedures; supervision of assistant(s). Work assignments often comprise of unique circumstances and may be technically challenging due to a complex work area requiring advanced technical knowledge, skill, and experience. Generally, work is performed either independently or with an assistant. Work may require Locator certification and/or other industry or company-specific certificate(s). Work includes applying judgment and decision-making that may directly impact the success of a ground disturbance including the life, health, and safety of workers, and/or the public, and the protection of infrastructure and/or the environment.

## TO EMPLOYERS OF UNDERGROUND FACILITY LOCATORS

An Employer is responsible to ensure that the UFL Competency Cycle is completed. From an Employer's point of view, completion of required sections of the Underground Facility Locator's Field Task Competency Manual (Manual) verifies that the Employer has assessed the UFL in the applicable skills relating to their industry sector. The Manual is the Employer's and UFL's record that the UFL has demonstrated the required competencies within his/her specific industry sector(s).

Competencies are divided into the following locator skills:

General  
Telecommunications & CATV  
Gas Distribution  
Electric Power  
Transmission Pipelines

Water and Waste Water  
Survey & Mapping \*  
Privately Owned Facilities  
Petroleum Producer's

\* Establishing survey boundaries must be performed by or under the supervision of a registered Land Surveyor. UFL survey competencies are included to understand and apply surveying techniques to aid in locating buried facilities, not for establishing survey boundaries.

## TO UNDERGROUND FACILITY LOCATORS

The competencies define the required UFL skills for an industry specific sector. These competencies were assembled by experienced locators with input from industry stakeholders. We wish to reaffirm our commitment to the competencies of UFL's and the safe working environment in which they work.

The challenge will be to make sure that new skills and changing technologies are incorporated into the Competency Profile. In order for the CP to continue to fully encompass the necessary and relevant UFL skills now and into the future, we need your input. As an experienced UFL your feedback is vital and we appreciate your help with the ongoing enhancement of the Competency Profile.

## TO FACILITY OWNERS/OPERATORS

Facility owner/operators have a vested interest in ensuring the UFL has the necessary skills to locate within a specific jurisdiction or industry sector. We encourage facility owners/operators to participate and support in the ongoing enhancement of the Underground Facility Locator Competency Profile.



### Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors

The Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC) was incorporated in 2002 as a non-profit Canadian Association. CAPULC has over 90 members involved in the Locating Industry. Its 9-Member Board of Directors includes stakeholders from locating contractors, facility owners/operators, surveying companies, training providers, equipment manufacturers, safety services, and the Canadian Common Ground Alliance.

#### CAPULC MISSION STATEMENT

The Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors (CAPULC) provides leadership, promotes safety, and works to enhance the value and reputation of the underground facility locating industry in Canada.

- \* As contractors we have a vested interest in shaping our future, and we all have the desire to be proactive in the development of standards for the locating industry in Canada.
- \* As members of CAPULC we have a vested interest in directing the development of standards for the locating industry in Canada, through education, and making industry specific information available to our members.
- \* As a group we agree that the development of Canadian standards, the guidelines for evaluating competencies and qualifications required, should be determined by those of us with the knowledge and experience involved in the locating industry.

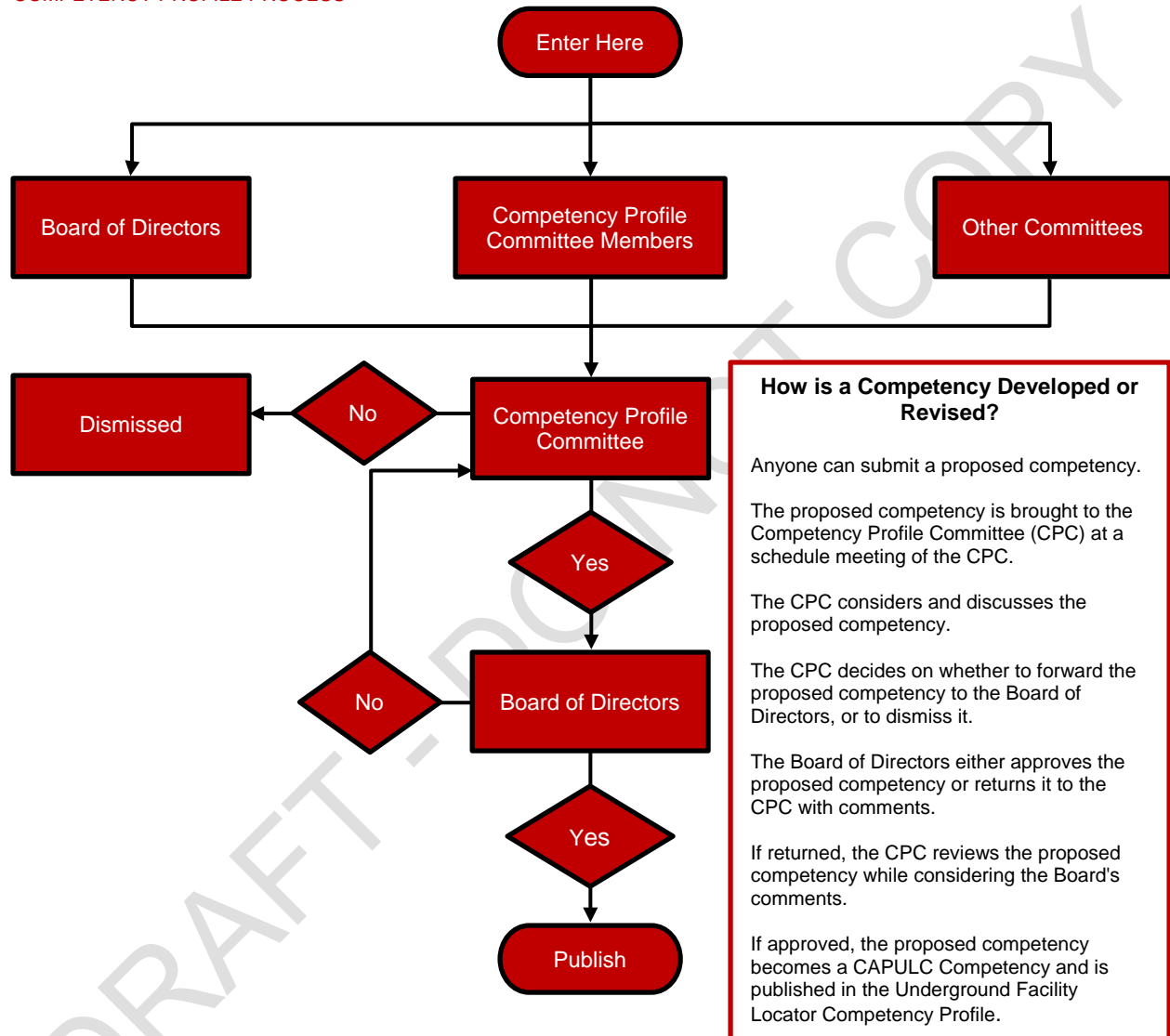
#### CAPULC ENDEAVOURS TO:

- \* Define, establish and preserve the identity and the common interests of the underground facility locating industry.
- \* Educate and promote better relations between members and governmental agencies, other Associations, contractors, professional engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, utility companies, one call centres, the public and the underground facility locating industry.
- \* Develop standards for the locating industry in Canada.
- \* Promote the practical application of knowledge related to the underground facility locating industry through education and ensure this education process is available to our members.
- \* Collect and disseminate information relative to the business in which Association members are engaged.
- \* Promote ethical practices among underground facility locators and the general public.
- \* Encourage safety in the conduct of work.
- \* Represent the common interest of Association members.
- \* Encourage the education of Association members in the pursuit of underground facility locating in accordance with sound business principles.

## FEEDBACK AND PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

CAPULC welcomes comments and suggestions for improving and updating the Underground Facility Locator Competency Profile. Our intent is to make the Competency Profile robust and relevant to the meet the needs of the UFL and locating industry. To submit a comment or propose a new competency or competency modification, email [competencies@capulc.ca](mailto:competencies@capulc.ca) or phone 1-888-492-8279.

### COMPETENCY PROFILE PROCESS





## Underground Facility Locator Competency Profile

**PROPOSAL FORM** (Contact CAPULC for an electronic copy of this form.)

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Company</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

Fill in applicable Sub-Section and check type of proposal (Add, Revise, or Delete).

Skill Section	Sub-Section	Add Content	Revise Content	Delete Content
General				
Telecommunications & CATV				
Gas Distribution				
Electric Power				
Transmission Pipelines				
Water & Waste Water				
Survey & Mapping				
Privately Owned Facilities				
Petroleum Producer's				
<b>PROPOSAL</b> (Please describe proposed competency.)				
<b>ORIGIN/RATIONALE</b> (Please include origin or reasoning for proposed competency.)				
<b>REFERENCES</b> (Please include references to applicable regulations or legislation, industry or company policies, best practices, etc.)				
<b>STATUS</b> (For CAPULC Competency Profile Committee use only.)				