



FAQ

Preamble

The College has succeeded in its goal of securing reserved practice (practice rights) for Registered Professional Biologists (RPBio) and Registered Biology Technologists (RBTech). Reserved practice will come into force on September 1, 2022, however ongoing work to implement [the amended Applied Biologists Regulation](#) will occur throughout 2022.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the College Office.

What is reserved practice?

How is reserved practice defined?

The definition of reserved practice as it applies to regulators under the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) means the ability to practice a profession is reserved for registrants of that regulatory body, with the exception of persons who may practice aspects of the profession in accordance with another legislation. Practically speaking, it means that a person must register with a regulatory body and meet all their professional, ethical and competency standards in order to offer their services as a professional when practicing within the defined reserved practice.

What about practice rights?

The terms “practice rights” and “right to practice” have the same meaning as reserved practice, but reserved practice is the terminology that is used in the Act.

Do other professions have reserved practice?

Yes, any profession that requires a license in order to practice – such as a doctor or a lawyer – has reserved practice. Under the *Professional Governance Act*, foresters, engineers and geoscientists have reserved practice; reserved practice was in their previous statutes and was maintained under the PGA. Professional agrologists will also have a reserved practice added to their regulation along the same timeline as applied biology professionals. Additionally, the Architectural Institute of BC will be coming under the PGA some time in 2022; their registrants have reserved practice under their current statute and this will also be maintained when they come under the PGA.

How is reserved practice different from what applied biology professionals have currently?

Under the *College of Applied Biology Act*, applied biology professionals were granted what are called title rights, which reserves several professional titles for the exclusive use of professionals that are registered with the College. [These titles include Professional Biologist, Registered Biology Technologist, etc.](#) No individual may present themselves with any of these titles without infringing on the title rights of applied biology professionals.

As above, with reserved practice, it is an infringement not only for an individual to present themselves as a professional biologist without being registered with the College, it will be an infringement to practice applied biology as defined in the amended regulation without being registered once the regulation comes into effect.

How will reserved practice work for applied biology practitioners?

What is the reserved practice of an applied biology professional?

The reserved practice for applied biology is contained in the Applied Biologists Regulation. The Regulation itself contains two definitions: regulated practice, which was already in force, and



the new reserved practice which is scheduled to come into force on September 1, 2022. Simply put, if the scope of any work falls under the reserved practice of applied biology, the work must be completed or supervised by a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) or a Registered Biology Techologist (RBTech).

What if I'm not registered with the College and I'm practicing applied biology?

If the applied biology work being done falls under the reserved practice definition of the Applied Biologists Regulation, as of the scheduled activation date of September 1, 2022, the work will have to be completed or supervised by a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) or a Registered Biology Techologist (RBTech).

To find the current standards and process to register with the College please see the College's website.

The College is also working on a Limited License registration stream that will be available in 2022.

What if I'm doing applied biology but I'm a registrant of another regulatory body or association?

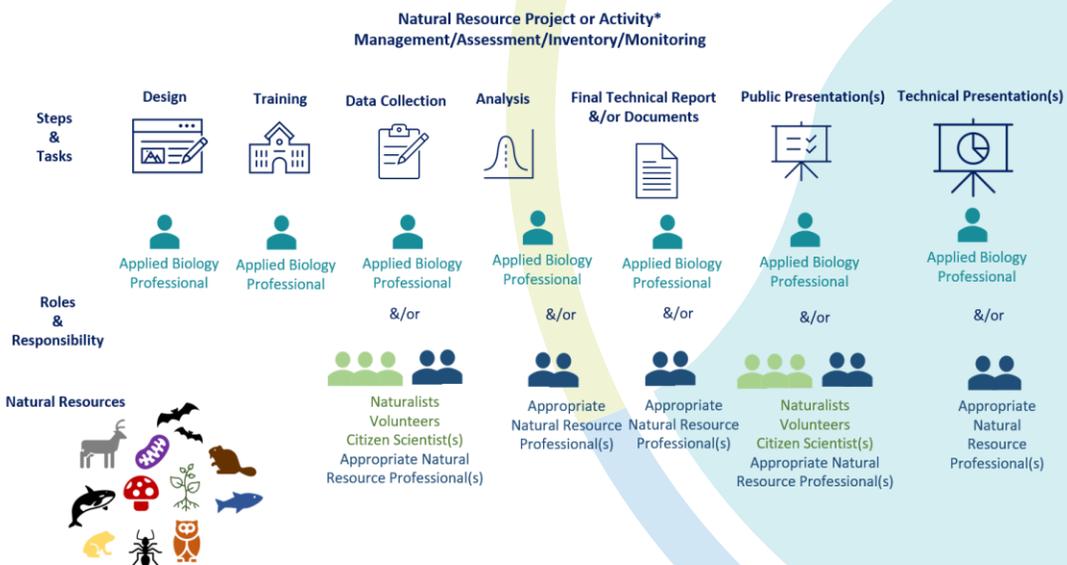
If you are a registrant of another regulator under the Professional Governance Act – such as an agrologist or forester – and you have the required training and competence to perform work that is defined under the regulated practice of the Applied Biologists Regulation, then you won't need to do anything.

However, if the applied biology work being done falls under the reserved practice definition of the Applied Biologists Regulation, as of the scheduled activation date of September 1, 2022, the work will have to be completed or supervised by a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) or a Registered Biology Techologist (RBTech).

What if I'm a registrant of the College and I'm doing work that is defined in the reserved practice of another regulator under the Act?

It is unlawful to perform work that is covered under the reserved practice of a profession that is regulated under the Professional Governance Act unless the individual is a registrant with the regulator of that profession.

What if I volunteer or work for an environmental or conservation organization?



*Could include but is not limited to Management/Assessment/Inventory/Monitoring



If the nature of the environmental or conservation project falls under the definition of reserved practices of a regulatory body, the project may need to be designed, overseen and/or conducted by a registrant professional under the *Professional Governance Act*, or exclusively by a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) or Registered Biologist Technologist (RBTech) if the project falls within the definition of reserved practice for applied biology. The graphic above provides some additional context.

 *What if I do not live in BC but am I working on a project in BC?*

Any work done in BC that falls under the reserved practice of professions covered by the *Professional Governance Act* must be done by a professional who is registrant of a regulatory body under the PGA. That is scheduled to come into effect September 1, 2022 for applied biology professionals.

Registrants of the College should be aware that even if they are doing work outside of the province of BC, they are still bound by their professional responsibilities under the [Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#).

 *Does this apply to individuals practicing Indigenous traditional knowledge?*

It does not. The College of Applied Biology recognizes and respects that Indigenous traditional knowledge and professional applied biology are complementary practices in managing and protecting natural resources.

 *How will reserved practice affect Applied Biology Technicians?*

Reserved practice has not been granted to Applied Biology Technicians (ABTs). This is because ABTs do not have their own independent practice scope, something that Registered Professional Biologists (RPBios) and Registered Biology Technologists (RBTEchs) have. ABTs do retain reserved title designation and are a valuable member of any team working in responsible resource management.