

**ASTTBC Report – Interprovincial Harmonization of Certification and Competency Standards for ROWPs**

Please be advised, ASTTBC has published this report on our website (<http://owrp.asttbc.org/p/information.php>).

The goal of this project was to look at challenges arising from federal labour mobility regulations that obligate ASTTBC to certify workers coming from other jurisdictions. Transfer applicants are not required to provide references, or to complete any specific work experience, or to submit examples of work for review. Over the last three years, approximately 90% of new ROWPs obtained certification using the transfer approach.

The report is a very interesting read. It outlines ASTTBC obligations to accept applicants who hold certifications from other provinces and reports statistics of recent ROWP certifications. It describes the differing provincial regulatory frameworks and associated differences in required competencies. It includes the results from a survey of 73 ROWPs on topics including training, certification process and continuing professional development. Recommendations are provided to foster greater collaboration amongst provincial regulators. The primary conclusion is that achieving harmonization of training and certification will be very difficult to accomplish.

**Update re SPM3 Orientation Requirements**

ROWP Bulletin #3 (June 29 2016) and #4 (August 3, 2016) described the mandatory continuing professional development requirement – to complete SPM3 orientation. (Previous bulletins are available at <http://owrp.asttbc.org/p/information.php>). This requirement originated in 2014. ASTTBC has provided thirteen live workshops and ten webinars. Our website provides learning resources and practice exams. We have sent numerous notifications and followed up with phone calls and one-on-one assistance. Many ROWPs have completed the exam over the last few months. A few dozen have not. Final notifications will be sent by registered mail in January advising those ROWPs that they have 30 days to complete the SPM exam as a condition of ongoing registration. After that period, the Practice Review Board will be asked to approve suspensions.

If you are still planning on meeting the requirement, feel free to contact Jim Andersen, Manager, Onsite Wastewater Program ([jandersen@asttbc.org](mailto:jandersen@asttbc.org)) for technical questions or assistance. Contact Frauke Bracht, Coordinator, Registrations ([fbracht@asttbc.org](mailto:fbracht@asttbc.org)) to make arrangements for the exam, or to confirm your resignation.



Since June 30, 2016 we have had 52 resignations or suspensions. Approximately 31 are related to the mandatory SPM orientation requirement.

### **Practice Assessment Reviews (PAR)**

ASTTBC continues to make progress in providing practice reviews. The strategy is to use a peer review process to compare the ROWP's practices to the requirements of ASTTBC Policy, Code of Ethics, the Sewerage System Regulation, and to the standards and guidelines of the Standard Practice Manual. The ROWP gains a better understanding of which practices and competencies require improvement.

Since September, we have launched approximately 54 PARs, with about 15 completed. 14 reviews were completed under the old Initial System Review Policy. The goal is to provide a review to all ROWPs within three years. All ROWPs registered since January 2016 are required to complete a Practice Assessment Review within six months of registration. ROWPs registered before January 2016 are selected for PARs on a random basis, except when the Practice Review Board has prescribed a review as a censure condition arising from an investigation.

### **Practice Reminder**

Based on reviews and investigations, concerns and complaints, we note recurring themes – where ROWPs are not practicing in accordance with expectations. Please note the following:

1. Oversight of non-authorized persons requires the Authorized Person to be present on the site while the work is being performed. Refer to ROWP Practice Guidelines 3.4.
2. The supervision required by the SSR when owners or other non-authorized person do the physical installation must be done only by a ROWP with certification in the installation category. Therefore, for owner construction, a Planner may certify the system only if he/she also holds certification as an Installer or ensures a ROWP Installer provided suitable supervision. In all cases, a Planner may certify the system only if he/she provided construction review at key points through the installation process. Construction review is distinct from supervision. Refer to ROWP Practice Guidelines 3.4.
3. Planners who provide construction review to support certification of installations by authorized ROWP Installers must attend the site at key stages of the work. Refer to ROWP Practice Guidelines 4.3.
4. ASTTBC members who provide maintenance or inspection service, must be certified in the corresponding ROWP categories. Only a ROWP Maintenance Provider may do maintenance. Only a ROWP Private Inspector may do compliance inspections or performance inspections.



We acknowledge the lack of MPs and PIs in some areas of the Province and the challenges faced by existing ROWPs to gain those additional certifications.

Like most guidelines – some latitude may be considered. For example, a ROWP with considerable experience and knowledge might consider performing simple maintenance such as cleaning a filter, checking a D-box, etc. But the Code of Ethics Principles 2 and 3 always apply, with no implied latitude. You must be qualified; must have suitable knowledge and experience. Refer to ASTTBC Code of Ethics.

Understand that if you deviate from Practice Guidelines; if you conduct maintenance or inspection without those certifications, you increase your exposure to liability. And your failure to abide by ASTTBC Policy and Guidelines will be a key consideration in any Practice and Compliance disciplinary procedure. Consider adding a category to your registration for Maintenance Provider and Private Inspection.

Attaining certification as a Maintenance Provider or Private Inspector is far 'easier' than ever before. There is no requirement for specific training (just demonstrate the required competencies). Experience requirements are reduced. If you do not have easy access to a qualified MP or PI to provide supervision (of your required initial work experience), ASTTBC can provide Quality Assurance Specialists under our Mentoring, Field Training and Field Assessment Policy.

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