California Title 24 - Mechanical Acceptance Test Technician Certification Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Title 24 Nonresidential Mechanical Acceptance Test Training and Certification Program?

Section 10-103-B of California’s building energy code (Title 24), http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/attcp/, has a provision that requires certified technicians and employers to perform mechanical acceptance testing. The acceptance tests ensure code compliance and promote optimization of efficiency and performance for nonresidential buildings. They serve to determine whether specific building components, equipment, systems, and interfaces between systems conform to criteria set forth in the 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards.

Section 10-103-B also allows certification providers such as NEBB to be-
come certified under this requirement once they submit their programs to the CEC and receive CEC approval.

The requirement for certified technicians will not be mandatory until all participating certification programs achieve a minimum of 300 certified Mechanical Acceptance Test Technicians (MATT). As of October 1, 2015, sufficient participation has not occurred so the program is not yet mandatory.

As a NEBB CP/CT, how can I comply with Title 24 ATTCP requirements?

NEBB CP/CTs should work with their local California jurisdictions to determine how to comply with the Title 24 requirements. Currently, the tests are required but the individual completing the acceptance test is not required to be certified.

What is the NEBB ATTCP application status?

NEBB's application as an ATTCP was approved by the CEC on 01/13/2016. NEBB is also working with California-based educational facilities to enable NEBB to provide training and administration of written and practical exams.

Does NEBB have interim approval under Title 24, section 10-103B?

NEBB had interim approval, but the interim approval period expired July 1, 2015.

Does AABC or TABB have interim approval under Title 24, section 10-103B?
AABC and TABB also had interim approval, but the interim approval period expired July 1, 2015.

**How will I be notified when NEBB is ready to accept ATT applicants?**

NEBB will make an announcement when the program is ready to accept applicants.

**I am a NEBB certified firm. Is there any documentation that explains what NEBB is doing to become an ATTCP which I could send to my customers?**

This newsletter should serve that purpose.

**I am a NEBB CP/CT interested in the training for Mechanical Acceptance Testing in California. Are there any details available?**

Now that NEBB’s application as an Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider (ATTCP) has been approved, NEBB is able to mobilize to meet the terms of that approval and create the necessary infrastructure. NEBB will advise all certificants and firms when NEBB’s ATTCP program is complete and participation can begin.

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**Will there be any fees associated with the certification?**

Yes. The NEBB Board of Directors has not set the acceptance test technician fees or requirements; those details will be announced in the near future.

**Will firms also need to be certified under the program?**

Yes. Title 24 requires that the employer also be certified under Title 24. The NEBB Board of Directors has not set the employer fees or requirements; those details will be announced in the near future.
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For forty-five years, NEBB has been delivering continuing educational programming to empower our certificants to deliver more. In 2016 the tradition continues as we will be celebrating our Rich History and Bright Future in historic and culturally vibrant Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the authentic southwestern culture outside of meeting hours with planned tours and social events while also adding to the building blocks of their bright future through diverse and varied education sessions. Registrants can customize their educational experience with choices covering our seven technical disciplines as well as general business and marketing best practices.

The 2016 NEBB Annual Conference will be held in downtown Albuquerque at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The facility will prove the perfect launching point for conference attendees with its spacious and modern meeting amenities and centralized location. Adventure and entertainment is close by with easy access to Albuquerque’s historic downtown with galleries, shopping, shopping and numerous restaurants.

The conference will deliver relevant, state-of-the-art elective sessions that will address a variety of TAB, Cleanroom Performance Testing, Fume Hood Performance Testing, Building Envelope Testing, Sound and Vibration Testing, Commissioning/Recommissioning, general industry updates, as well as other unique aspects of doing business in the high performance building and systems industry. Plus, there will be networking activities that will bring the best of Albuquerque to our attendees with the NEBB 19th Annual Golf Tournament, at a course at the foot of the beautiful Sandia mountain range, the traditional “Get Acquainted Reception” to kick us off on our opening night, and two optional off-site tours with one planned pre-convention making it easy to squeeze in quality time before the convention kicks-off. Registration for this conference is open. Go to www.nebb.org for more details and registration information.
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TAB Engineers is a Testing, Adjusting and Balancing (TAB) and commissioning firm that is located in Kaneohe, Hawaii. Their main clients are government contractors who build or renovate U.S. military bases in Hawaii. They also do work on public schools, hospitals industrial facilities and commercial spaces.

Ryan Chang, a NEBB Certified Professional, graduated from Oregon State University in 1995, where he majored in mechanical engineering. His first job out of college was with a NEBB certified TAB company in Portland, Oregon. Shortly after, Ryan decided to change his career focus and worked for a few mechanical design consulting firms in Oregon and Hawaii. In 2002 Ryan decided to try business ownership and started TAB Engineers, LLC. After fourteen years, the Company now employs 12, including the staff from Certified Testing who joined TAB Engineers in 2011.

Front row left to right: Merton Chang, Yvette Imanaka, Lisa Chang, Kimberly Andrada, Kevin Chong, and Ryan Chang. Back row from left to right: Martin Heede, Douglas Buote, Eisyne Rebluud, Tri Tran, and Calvin Tauanuu
Ryan re-entered the TAB industry because he likes hands-on problem solving, applying practical knowledge of design engineering, and the challenges of running a business. "Don't be dreadful of being handed a problem project", he explains to the technicians. "Our job exists because there are problems that need to be solved." He feels that difficult system problems are actually a marketing opportunity when it takes a collaborative effort of the design engineer, facilities manager and the TAB firm. Solving someone's building problems can be difficult, but it is also gratifying. He learned to appreciate the unique problems in every project. “There is always something new to challenge you, and you will never stop learning in this profession,” says Ryan.

Interesting projects...........

TAB Engineers accepted the first (ever) Government of Japan, Ministry of Defense funded commissioning project. The design and construction of the new medical dental clinic at MCAS Iwakuni is funded by GOJ, but will be used by the U.S. Navy-Marines. The design phase commissioning project began in the Summer of 2014, and construction is expected to finish in Summer 2017. This Cx project has two Owners (U.S. and Japan), two contracting officer representatives, and multiple technical reviewer agencies from both sides. It’s not easy to define a clear owner’s project requirement (OPR) that meets both parties’ expectations.

TAB Engineers currently holds NEBB certification in TAB, Building Systems Commissioning, and Building Enclosure Testing. TAB Engineers NEBB Certified Professionals include Ryan Chang and Doug Buote, and NEBB Certified Technicians, Kevin Chong and Martin Heede.

The company made the decision to become NEBB certified because in this profession, credibility is everything and NEBB certification gives them that. Having NEBB certification has added value to their service and gives the ability to work on projects that require a certified TAB firm. Customers of NEBB certified firms know that they will be getting quality professional service consistently on their projects. They know that TAB and commissioning optimizes the performance of a facility so that it is able to operate as efficiently as it was designed by the engineer. Ryan emphasizes to the engineering community that buildings that are properly designed, constructed, balanced and commissioned will have less problems, consume less energy, and less likely to have uncomfortable interior conditions. “We all benefit when we work together as a team to achieve a successful project.”
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

2016 is starting off with good signs for our industry. I hope you are sharing the experience. There are many construction cranes up and lots of projects starting.

Our chapter annual meeting is coming up and there is plenty to share. We look forward to seeing you and sharing updates from CEC Title 24 and NEBB changes. Please take a moment and introduce yourself to our new board members – Greg Bluhm (Technical Committee Chair), Sargon Ishaya (Education Committee Chair) and Jason Huffman (Marketing Committee Chair). Also, welcome back Dan Moore (Past President) as he has kindly stepped up for the next term. They can all use your input and help.

One of speakers will be Jon Sheppard from NEBB. There are changes that you should be aware of. Jon Sheppard (NEBB BOD and TAB Committee) will be sharing the newest NEBB updates and the TAB Procedural Standard changes. There are many ongoing subjects like tool requirements (EX: RVA requirement and calibration of temp/RH sensors) and pitot traverse changes that you should hear and discuss to understand more. Jon will be here to share and discuss.

Title 24 is always changing and we are all struggling with the industry impact. We will have Title 24 as a subject at our annual meeting plus there is a “Staff Workshop regarding Mandatory Certification for Mechanical Acceptance Test Technicians” on February 29, 216 in Sacramento with the CEC that you might be interested in attending. If you go to www.energy.ca.gov/title24/attcp, you can see more about the 1:00 pm meeting goals. Jim Huber (NEBB Title 24 Committee Chair) will be there from NEBB along with several other of us. Hope you can attend as this is our opportunity to impact the CEC governing of the program. They need to hear our experiences of what is going on in the field.

We appreciate all your help in supporting our industry through volunteering.

NorCal-Hawaii NEBB Chapter President

Steve Smith
Chapter President
2016/17 NEBB
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Past President    Dan Moore, Pyramid Balancing
Upcoming Events

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA/HAWAII NEBB CHAPTER ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND RECERTIFICATION SEMINAR

Friday, February 26, 2016
7:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
The Citizen Hotel
Sacramento, CA

Contact the NEBB Office to sign up or to receive more information at
www.nocalhawaiineebb.org

NEBB SOUND & VIBRATION CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR & OPTION EXAM

March 6 - March 10, 2016
7:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Contact the NEBB Office to sign up or to receive more information at www.nocalhawaiineebb.org

2016 NEBB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 14-16, 2016
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Contact the NEBB Office to sign up or to receive more information at www.nebb.org

NEBB WEBINARS AND EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

For More Training Information visit www.nebb.org.

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7100 Stevenson Blvd.
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