NEBB Quality Performance Starts Here!

Single Source for Prompt, Professional Support

NEBB’s credibility is built by maintaining integrity through high standards, quality programs and demonstrated capabilities of its certified firms. This is achieved through NEBB’s Quality Assurance Program (QAP). The program ensures swift, single-source mediation and resolution of disputes between NEBB-certified professionals and their customers. NEBB’s QAP applies to all projects that have been specified for completion in accordance with NEBB’s applicable Procedural Standards and delivered by a NEBB-certified firm.

NEBB will issue Conformance Certification Certificates when called for in specifications and applied for by a NEBB-certified firm. A unique certificate is issued for each project covered by a Conformance Certification. A certificate is not a requirement to seek assistance under NEBB’s QAP.

Request for Assistance

A request for assistance may be initiated by a project’s owner or his/her representative.
either in writing or via a telephone call to NEBB or to a local NEBB chapter.

**Resolving The Issue**

NEBB will select a qualified, third party professional to evaluate and address all issues within seven calendar days of receiving an initial complaint. NEBB’s qualified third party professional will promptly contact the NEBB-certified firm and the person who initiated the complaint. During an initial review, the NEBB third party professional may:

- Review applicable plans and specifications.
- Review job specific procedures and submittals.
- Review applicable reports and field conditions.
- Review the accuracy of field data.
- Attempt to mediate a solution with the two parties.

**Taking Corrective Action**

If NEBB determines that corrective action is required, NEBB will perform one or more of the following actions to resolve the issue:

- Prepare a scope of work document that outlines the corrective actions that are necessary.
- Secure a letter of credit, certified check or payment and performance bond from the original NEBB firm to ensure successful completion of the required work.
- Supervise the required remedial work by the original contractor, if the original contractor agrees to perform the work.
- Select an alternate NEBB-certified firm to redo the defective work at no cost to the owner, if the original firm refuses to do the work.

**QAP Limitations**

The purpose of the QAP is to provide quality customer service and prompt professional support. There are limitations to the program:

- NEBB will not assume liability for damages suffered by a customer attributable to the failure of a NEBB-certified firm to complete the contractual obligations in accordance with applicable documents.
- The QAP will not apply to or address any contractual issues other than those related to compliance with NEBB Procedural Standards.
- NEBB will not intervene if substantive changes to the systems are initiated or if corrective action is taken by anyone other than the original NEBB-certified firm prior to the completion of NEBB’s investigations.
- The customer must cooperate with NEBB and the NEBB-certified firm involved to effect appropriate resolution in order for the QAP to be in effect.
- The program will not be in effect if the customer does not allow NEBB to supervise the corrective work with contractors of NEBB’s choice.
- NEBB will not intervene if the complaint is filed with NEBB later than 6 months from the date when deficiencies were first identified or later than 12 months after substantial completion.
- The QAP is not in effect for any projects that do not require the project to be completed per NEBB Procedural Standards.
- If NEBB determines that the original issues were primarily the result of improper design, installation or system deficiencies over which the NEBB-certified firm had no control, NEBB may decline to intervene.
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The End of SF6 Fume Hood Tracer Gas Testing?

The tracer gas used in the NEBB PROCEDURAL STANDARDS FOR FUME HOOD PERFORMANCE TESTING, Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6) will be effectively banned for use in the State of California starting on January 1, 2013[1]. A potent greenhouse gas, SF6 has a global warming potential ~23,400 times that of carbon dioxide, and as one of his Green Initiatives, former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger set laws into motion to reduce California’s overall carbon footprint. Companies that provide fume hood testing using tracer gasses in California need to be aware of this regulatory change, how it affects them and what their options may be.

The regulations affecting SF6 allow special-use appeals, and the reader is encouraged to evaluate their contract scope to determine if an appeal may be appropriate for their specific project. Since the California Air Resources Board specifically met and discussed fume hood testing, it is unlikely that simple requests to continue using SF6 will be granted. A notable exception is that SF6 may be used for one-time testing per laboratory fume hood, provided that the use is in compliance with Cal/OSHA ventilation requirements for laboratory fume hood operations set forth in title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 5154.1(c)(2)(B), for the purpose of reducing laboratory fume hood face velocity when the hood is unattended and realizing the associated energy savings. However, routine testing with SF6 at “normal” flow rate is not permitted.

Fume hood testers use SF6 by ejecting it into an operating fume hood and measuring how much, if any, of it leaks out. Anecdotally, the amount of SF6 used in testing a single fume hood has about the same carbon-footprint as a Boeing 737 airplane flying one way from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Since we test hundreds of fume hoods each year across the country, and since we were aware of the changing regulatory climate surrounding SF6, Technical Safety Services anticipated the need to find an alternate tracer gas and started its own research program in partnership with the University of California and Knutson Ventilation, Inc. of Edina Minnesota.

Our work focused on using nitrous oxide (N2O) as a replacement gas. SF6 is a nearly-ideal tracer gas for several reasons and N2O is not as perfect; there are special handling and...
monitoring requirements for N2O that simply do not apply to SF6. Nevertheless, our work, presented at AIH/Ce and to the CAL/OSHA Standards Board was compelling enough to achieve a variance specifically allowing the U.C. campuses to use N2O for fume hood testing under special conditions. Essentially, the final phase of our test project demonstrated that the detector-response for N2O was the same as that for SF6. When we ejected SF6 and N2O at the same time from the same ejector and plotted the results, the two curves sat on top of each other almost perfectly.

Tracer-gas based performance testing of laboratory fume hoods is still a valid means to investigate industrial hygiene exposure incidences as well as qualify new or existing fume hood installations. As we approach the end of 2012, we are working with more clients to help prepare them for the transition away from SF6, and we continue to promote the use of N2O.


By Martin Burke, Engineering Manager, and Peter Chau, Sr. Field Service Technician
Technical Safety Services, Inc.

Chapter President’s Message

I want to thank those of you who represented our Chapter at the NEBB National Meeting held in Anaheim. It appeared to be a successful event. One of my duties was to attend a meeting of the current Chapter Presidents. This meeting in past years was originally an all-day meeting but do to a less than stellar turnout last year it was shortened to just two hours. And as luck would have it this year we had approximately seventeen chapter presidents attend but still with only a two hour window for the meeting. Well the meeting went three hours and could have easily gone all day. Next year NEBB National will try to move it back to an all day event. During this meeting it seemed like the recurring theme going through my head was “we are not alone” many issues facing the other chapters are the same issues we have already been through or are currently going through. The issues range from chapter volunteerism to fee structures to the quality of the membership. NEBB National’s message to the Chapter Presidents was clear that they are here to support our Chapter affairs but it is up to our local Chapter to be the driving force to create and achieve our Chapter goals. Another topic of discussion centered around the need to get some of the younger generation of professionals involved in NEBB National as they bring a different outlook on the future and more gains in the use of current technologies to both market and perform our work within TAB and the related industries. This begins with involvement on the local Chapter level to become familiar with the Operational Procedures and Guidelines of NEBB, then pursuing a role on national committees and sub-committees, and then ultimately as a member of the National Board of Directors. I encourage each one you to get involved if you have not already done so.

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By Curtis Worley, T.A.B.C.O.
Chapter President
NEBB National Annual Convention in Anaheim

This year’s NEBB National Convention was held at the Grand Californian Hotel at Disneyland. It was a beautiful facility and within walking distance of both parks. Two days of technical sessions were held as well as Open Committee Meetings for all the NEBB disciplines. This gave everyone a chance to sit with the National Committees who help to steer the direction of NEBB and ask questions, give input and find out future happenings. Each Chapter President and Chapter Coordinator had special meetings to discuss the running of the Chapters, upcoming changes and garner new ideas from other Presidents and Coordinators.

Below are some of the members who attended the Annual Meeting.

Vendor Displays

Ryan Chang, TAB Engineers and Vic Congi, Carter Air Balance

Neil Marshall
NEBB National President

Randy and Whitney Silva,
West Coast Trane and Mike Kearns

Ron Jenkins, QCS

Jason Huffman, Pacific Test & Balance, Bill and Diana Jeffrey, DPR Construction

Steve Johnson, EVP of NEBB, Bill Neudorfer, Neudorfer Engineering and Vic Congi, Carter Air Balance,
New photo capture feature!

Remember what issues and equipment look like with photos.

Capture photos in the field with your iPad or Android device and synchronize the photos back to your main project log.

We support Apple iPad™ and netbooks, laptops or tablets running Windows. Android Support now available!
Alpha Air Balancing Agency, Inc. has been dedicated to providing Air and Hydronic HVAC system balancing and cleanroom certification services of unsurpassed quality to clients throughout California. The Firm was established in February 1995 by founder, Romy Gonzales. Regardless of the size of the projects, their goal has always been to provide accurate, reliable and efficient HVAC air and Hydronic system balancing services, supported by clear and accurate reporting. They have successfully completed over 3500 projects ranging in duration from one day to one year. The building owners, engineers and construction firms that they have worked with are their testimonial to the professionalism that they offer their clients.

Alpha Air Balancing Agency, Inc. is certified by the National Environmental Balancing Bureau (NEBB) and is a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (ASHRAE) and is a Minority Business Enterprise (SBE / MBE). Their team of qualified field service technicians, supported by the engineering staff in their Carmel office, bring their clients years of reliable experience. Their field technicians conduct every test in accordance with standard procedures developed by NEBB.

Alpha Air Balancing offers the following services: Duct Leak Testing (HERS testing), Air and Hydronic Balancing, Energy Audits and Existing System Analysis, Energy Audits and Existing System Analysis, Energy Management, Sound Level Analysis, Indoor Air Quality, Commissioning assistance and Cleanroom Certifications.

Their clientele consists of large Mechanical Contractors located in the Central Coast, Bay Areas, Central and Northern California. Their clients have included hospitals and health institutions, military installations, schools, universities and educational establishments, industrial processing plants, laboratories, Bio-techs, offices, computer facilities, cleanrooms, retail, hotels and correctional facilities.

Alpha Air’s Mission Statement is, “We strive to assure a comfortable, well-balanced environment – before we walk out the door. We are committed to providing timely, accurate testing and reporting with the highest level of integrity. We expect all team members to be customer-focused – to take pride in their work and deliver quality results.”

Romy Gonzales has thirty-four years of experience in environmental testing and adjusting industry, starting in this field since his migration to the United States in 1975. Romy has a degree in Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of San Agustín in the Philippines. In 1977 Romy started work with Air Balance Engineering, Inc., then in 1982 he started ACCU Balance with 2 other partners and in 1995 he left ACCU Balance and started Alpha Air Balancing Agency, Inc. Professional memberships include NEBB, CALCERTS and ASHRAE. Currently Romy is NEBB certified in Air & Hydronics. He is currently working on attaining his Building Systems Commissioning and Retro-Commissioning certification.

Initially, the company was staffed with one Project manager and one Field Technician. Presently, Alpha Air Balancing is a ten person firm with its project team comprising of one NEBB Certified Professional and six skilled TAB Field Technicians, three of whom...
are NEBB Technician Certified. Each individual has the capabilities of understanding the operations of mechanical systems and troubleshooting control problems, skilled in design criteria, and Title 24 compliance. Romy is President of the firm and works on bidding, estimating, and inspection of job sites. His wife, Cynthia is the firm’s treasurer and secretary. Other office administrative staffs are two part-time college students, Eric and Nash, who are responsible for preparing and submitting timely reports, as well as contract and certified payroll management.

In 2010 Alpha Air was awarded the Administrator’s Award for Excellence by the U.S. Small Business Administration on the basis of management ability, delivery and quality performance, technical capabilities, and customer interface. The nomination came from Mr. Hans Uslar, of the City of Monterey, Public Works Division. Mr. Uslar felt that Alpha Air Balancing easily met the selection criteria based on their performance with their department, so the decision to nominate them came easy. He felt that Alpha Air has shown a strong understanding of subcontracting work and that they know the importance of delivering quality service on time and within budget. Time and time again, Alpha Air Balancing has distinguished themselves through their high quality of work and customer service. Elizabeth Echols, Administrator for Region IX of the U.S. Small Business Administration stated: “The focus that Alpha Air Balancing places on ensuring customer satisfaction and the pride the staff takes in their work are two of the main reasons for their success.”

Most construction specifications require NEBB certified independent TAB firms and qualified Certified Professionals to manage and perform the testing process. NEBB is known for performance integrity and high standards. Because of this Alpha Air Balancing made the decision to become NEBB certified.

Most of Alpha Air’s customers understand the importance of the NEBB certification. Eighty-five percent (85%) of their clients are Mechanical Contractors and those clients they deliver their services directly to, like hospitals and such, approve of NEBB’s strict procedural standards that Alpha Air brings to their projects. Quality assurance is the core value of a NEBB Certified Professional. Alpha Air offers viable solutions to problems that pertain to HVAC, climate controls and building comfort.

Alpha Air contracts both public and private projects. Mainly, they work as a subcontractor to Mechanical Contractors, but they have partnered in the past directly with the military on projects for the Department of Defense in Fort Ord, CA, and the Presidio of Monterey & Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Presently, they are in the process of completing David Grant Medical Center in Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, CA. Alpha Air is highly aware of and has always been in compliance with the military’s security procedures and standards. Some of the projects that Alpha Air Balancing has worked on over the years have been the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Nividia Corporation, the Applied Materials building in Santa Clara, the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency and most recently the Mills Peninsula Medical Center to name just a few.
I would like to thank the following Marketing Committee members that have agreed to serve on our 2012 No. California/Hawaii NEBB Marketing Committee this year:

Amber Ryman, ACCO  
Jason Huffman, Pacific Test & Balance, Inc.  
Sargon Ishaya, Pragmatic Professional Engineers  

Our first 2012 Marketing function was at the BOMA Silicon Valley (Building Owners and Managers Association Silicon Valley) Tradeshow in San Jose on April 18, 2012. The function was the “Associates Night Trade Show”, where numerous vendors that provide services to the Building Owners and Managers gathered to market their services and participate in a fun evening. The NEBB Members that attended were Amber Ryman, ACCO, Sargon Ishaya, Pragmatic Professional Engineers, Steve Smith, Pacific Test and Balance, Inc., Bill Jeffrey, DPR Construction and Audrey Kearns, Chapter Coordinator.

We will also be attending the ASHRAE Golden Gate Chapter Product Show in San Francisco (PG&E Energy Center) on May 10th, where we will be having a Vendors Table Top at the Product Show. This ASHRAE Product Show is attended by most of the Mechanical Engineers in the Bay Area and is a great way to meet a lot of local Engineers that we all work with. If you are interested in attending, please let Audrey know.

Thank you for those that completed the “NEBB NorCal Marketing Questionnaire” that was given out at the 2012 Re-Certification Meeting this year in Napa. We have reviewed the comments and are incorporating them into our Marketing plans for the year.

Got Technical Updates?  
We’re always looking for quality articles for The NEBB Professional.  
Please submit topic idea with a brief description to marketing@nebb.org

Why Become NEBB Certified?

Did you know?
- that building owners are demanding that their buildings be worked on by certified personnel?  
- work completed in Federal Office buildings need to be completed by certified personnel?  
- that LEED certification involves NEBB commissioning?  
- being NEBB certified allows a firm to compete on projects where NEBB certification is required, like hospitals and schools.

There are a number of reasons to become NEBB Certified such as increasing your qualifications and providing NEBB quality assurance on your projects. But the number one reason to become NEBB Certified is to increase your potential work load.

Innovation, high standards and a proven track record have made NEBB the leader in its field. For more information on how to become NEBB certified, contact the Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter.
NEW MEMBER

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Carey Tomasa, Air Balance Hawaii
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MARKETING:
Bill Jeffrey, DPR Construction, Chair
Sargon Ishaya, Pragmatic Professional Engineers
Amber Ryman, ACCO
Jason Huffman, Pacific Test & Balance, Inc. - Hawaii

Upcoming Events

NEBB Certified Professional Written/Practical Exam
September 15, 2012, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., San Leandro, CA
Contact the Chapter to sign up, akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org

NEBB Certified BSC Seminar and Exam
July 25 - 28, 2012, Atlanta, Georgia
ASHRAE Learning Center
Contact NEBB National, www.nebb.org

NEBB Certified Fumehood Performance Testing Seminar
September 10 - 14, 2012, Kansas City, Missouri
LABCONCO
Contact NEBB National, www.nebb.org

NEBB Technician Exam
On Demand Basis
Contact the Chapter to sign up, akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org
For More Training Information visit www.nebb.org.

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