NEBB Certified Technicians need 6 hours per year of Continuing Education Hours starting this year 2016.

A new policy requiring continuing education credits for Certified Technicians (CT) went into effect early 2016.

The new 2016 CEC (Continuing Education Credit) submission policy requires Certified Technicians (CT) to submit a total of 6 continuing education credits anytime within their two-year cycle. In order to help with the transition of the new CEC requirement, there will be adjustments made for those CTs who are in the second year of their 2-year cycle. The schedule is as follows:
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HAVE YOU HEARD?
1. CTs who are in the second year of their certification cycle ending December 2016 are required to submit 3 continuing education credits.

CTs whose certification cycle ends December 2017, are required to submit the full 6 continuing education credits.

CTs can submit CECs from a variety of continuing education credit categories that were designed specifically for them and include, but are not limited to:

1. Live or online NEBB or non-NEBB education events
2. Technical, community or college-related courses
3. Certifications/Licenses
4. Safety Training
5. Vendor Lunch & Learn Events
6. In-house Training Events

Each CEC submission category has a detailed breakdown of eligible events, the number of CECs allowed and the required documentation when submitting to NEBB. The full Certified Technician CEC Submission Policy and Recertification Document can be downloaded at www.nebb.org.

"Continuing education is a win-win for everyone. It creates a more qualified, confident Certificant who can gain a competitive edge in today's marketplace, and improve their social and business network," states Cynthia Hereth, Director of Certification for NEBB. Throughout the transition process, NEBB's Certification Department will work with CTs who may have questions. Call Sheila Simms, Certification Manager at 301-591-0483 or Cynthia Hereth, Director of Certification at 301-591-0491.
When it comes to being a “green” organization, NEBB falls short in one area for sure. We kill an awful lot of trees.

NEBB is a very paper-dependent organization. Just this past month, as we entered the busiest time for firm and personnel certification renewal, tens of thousands of pieces of paper, and hundreds of paper checks, have crossed the threshold of NEBB Headquarters. In an age where PDF files have replaced paper files and online transactions have replaced manual check writing, NEBB is behind the curve. But not for long.

In 2015 NEBB embarked on an exhaustive search for a new association management software (AMS) program. We looked at the best known AMS packages from vendors large and small. We spoke to management and IT professionals at other organizations about the programs they use. We interviewed software providers, watched countless product demos and even explored the possibility of having a program designed from scratch to meet NEBB’s unique needs.

NEBB’s needs are in fact quite unique. While there are several developers of association management software, NEBB isn’t like a lot of associations. NEBB is a certifying body, not a membership association. NEBB certifies firms, not just people. NEBB is extremely volunteer driven and not as reliant on staff as most non-profits. It wasn’t long before we came to the conclusion that using an off-the-shelf association management software package for NEBB would be like trying fit a round peg in an oval shaped hole. And then we discovered Certelligence.

Certelligence is a cloud-based credentialing management system developed by ACGI Software. The system is the only one of its
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kind – specifically developed for certification bodies like NEBB. Certelligence enables the effective operation of even the most complicated certification and accreditation programs. Built on a proven enterprise database platform, it provides a comprehensive suite of modules that can be configured to automate and streamline NEBB’s most critical business functions. The system provides built-in self-service components that, when integrated with NEBB’s website, will give volunteers, candidates, certificants and participants, 24/7 access to valuable online features and personalized resources, in real time.

**Life without Certelligence**

A few months ago your firm was notified that it was time for its annual certification renewal. NEBB’s manual, paper-based process went into gear. Your Chapter sent you a recertification application and NEBB sent you an invoice for annual fees. You probably received these in the mail.

The invoice was likely turned over to your accounting department. A check was printed, signed and mailed to NEBB Headquarters. There wasn’t an option to pay online by credit card. Your firm’s designated Certified Professional (CP) probably completed the firm recertification application. He or she made lots of photocopies for the required documentation. Your CP completed the form’s instrument list and probably wrote the manufacturer, model and serial number of your equipment by hand in the spaces provided. The completed application was sent, or possibly hand delivered along with a trunk load of instruments for inspection, to your chapter’s Technical Committee Chair (TCC) for review. The TCC put on his or her reading glasses, reviewed the application and attachments like calibration reports, signed off on the application, and then forwarded it (probably by mail) to NEBB. The paperwork was reviewed again by staff, who then went into a modified MS Access database to update your firm’s records as complete. Staff verified that payment has been received, and then produced and mailed a paper certificate and also a stamp to your chapter, and the chapter in turn forwarded the certificate and stamp to you.

From start to finish, the entire recertification process likely involved 30 or more pieces of paper, several dollars in postage, and at least a half day labor. And it took a couple months to complete. All that just to recertify one firm, and we haven’t even touched on the recertification of your personnel – a similarly laborious process.

**Certelligence to the Rescue**

When it is time for your firm’s 2017 certification renewal, things will be dramatically more efficient. Here’s what will happen.

Your designated CP will receive an email saying it’s time to renew. He or she will then log into the NEBB website, powered by Certelligence. There will be an open invoice. On the way through the online store, the CP may add a few items to the shopping cart – perhaps a framed certificate or a new stamp. The CP will enter a credit card number and pay. Payment data will be uploaded that night by NEBB staff and it will automatically populate data into NEBB’s accounting software. Your account will be marked as paid.

Next your CP will complete an online recertification application by typing in the required information and uploading supplementary documents. For instrumentation, the CP will find listings under each type with drop down menus for manufacturers and models. The CP will click on the applicable ones, type in serial numbers and calibration dates, upload photographs and calibration certificates, and click submit when everything is done. That will immediately trigger an email to your chapter’s TCC, telling him or her that an application is ready to review.

The TCC will log into Certelligence to review your online application. If there is something amiss, the TCC will
click a few buttons and an email will go to your CP asking for the problem to be resolved. Once that’s taken care of, the TCC will get another email asking for a second look. All is perfect and the TCC clicks “approved.” That triggers a series of actions: your firm’s listing on the NEBB website is approved for another year, a PDF firm certification certificate is emailed to your CP along with a cover memo saying the firm is recertified, and an email goes to NEBB’s fulfillment department triggering the shipping of your paper certificate (if you want one) and stamps.

From start to finish, the entire recertification process will require no paper, possibly no postage, and just an hour or two of total time spent by your CP, the volunteer TCC, and NEBB staff. And it will all take about a day or two to complete.

This is just one small example of the kind of efficiencies NEBB firms, CPs, Chapter TCCs and staff will enjoy with Certelligence. There are many more benefits that are equally exciting, saving time, expense and aggravation for everyone involved.

At the NEBB Annual Conference in April, we will be sharing a lot more information about Certelligence. The program is expected to launch during the summer. In the meantime, if you want to learn more about Certelligence visit the ACGI website at http://www.acgisoftware.com/

Albert Einstein once said, “The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.” The change to Certelligence is a measure of NEBB’s intelligence!

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Glenn Fellman,
NEBB Executive Vice President
Update From NEBB Conference in New Mexico

- There are 26 NEBB Chapters worldwide
- In 2015 NEBB’s Gross Income was $2,139,044
- The BSC Certified Technician (CT) program is available starting June 1st.
- NEBB is working on the BSC Technical Standards Manual. NEBB is looking for Technical Experts to help write the manual. Anyone interested, please contact Tiffany Suite at NEBB.
- The Retro Cx Standards Manual is almost available for Peer Review
- NEBB has 8 disciplines and almost all 8 have a CT certification
- NEBB is working on a CxPP certification. This is a certification for process commissioning and will be ANSI accredited. This certification is for individuals only.

NEBB APPROVED AS A TITLE 24 ATTCP PROVIDER

After a long journey and many grueling hours sweated by several individuals including the late Vic Congi I can proudly announce NEBB is now fully approved as an Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider (ATTCP) with the California Energy Commission (CEC). NEBB is now finalizing the Certification Program and details will be released in the next few months on how to become both an Acceptance Test Technician (ATT) and an Acceptance Test Employer (ATE). It will be important to understand the role both of these Certifications provide. First, the Employer, will be required to take a short course along with a test to assure the Employer understands the requirements for testing and their roles and responsibilities. Second, the Technician, will have a few steps to take. Overall the goal will be to verify their experience and demonstrate their ability to perform each test. The process will be laid out in detail at a later date. Keep your eyes peeled for an announcement from NEBB as well as our own Chapter.
ACCO Engineered Systems is the largest Design/Build mechanical engineering firm in the Western United States, and is entirely employee-owned. It specializes in heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, plumbing, process piping, industrial construction, building automation, electrical contracting and building services. ACCO currently employs around 2,900 employees located throughout the Western United States, with 280 employees located in its San Leandro office.

ACCO Engineered Systems was founded in 1934 as Air Conditioning Company (ACCO), located in Los Angeles. This former name was chosen because so few people knew what air conditioning was at the time. In 1949, the firm moved to Glendale, its current corporate address. In 2002, ACCO changed its name to ACCO Engineered Systems to better reflect the many aspects of its business. ACCO currently has thirty offices mostly located in California with other states being Washington, Idaho, Texas and Nevada.

Currently ACCO (San Leandro Office) has two NEBB Certified Professionals on staff, Amber Ryman and Jack Holke and eight NEBB Certified Technicians. Technicians are Michael De Los Reyes, Bryan Tate, Geoff Asbell, Joe Wion, Robert Cortez, Brian Leval, Alex Lemus and Andy Bruns.

Amber has been with ACCO for 16 years. She started in the System Operations Group doing Start, Test and Balance at ACCO as an apprentice with the Pipefitters Union. Prior to joining ACCO, Amber had limited experience in the trades. Her construction experience began in the office helping the project managers and estimators as a Bid Coordinator and Project Assistant. She decided that if she wanted to pursue this field she would need field experience, so she went to the pipefitters union hall and signed up for the apprenticeship program. In her second year of the apprenticeship program she
went to work for ACCO, and was able to complete her 5-year apprenticeship program while she learned the ropes of the Start, Test and Balance Department. Once she became a journeyman, she was running projects and seeing jobs through to the end of the project, her responsibilities grew and she was approached to take the NEBB Certified Professional exam. Since she passed the NEBB test in 2010 and received her NEBB Certification in Testing, Adjusting and Balancing, she has taken on the opportunity of supervising the TAB portion of the department. ACCO’s TAB group started with two technicians and before long grew to twelve full time balancers.

Amber holds the following certifications with NEBB: Testing, Adjusting & Balancing, Whole Building Systems Technical Commissioning, Technical Retro-Commissioning of Existing Buildings, Sound, and Vibration Measurement. She is currently the only commissioner in Northern California for ACCO.

Jack Holke has been a Project Manager with ACCO’s service group since 2005 and has been a NEBB Certified Professional since 1996. At Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Jack’s career plans were to get his political science degree and then attend Law School. Tiring of school, Jack’s fraternity brother convinced him to interview with an air balancing firm that his father was associated with. One week after graduation, Jack started his career as a TAB Technician in 1984 for NABCO. One month after starting work at NABCO, Jack attended the Sheet Metal Union apprenticeship program for 3 years. After 16 years as a TAB Technician where he worked for several different firms, he made a career change. In 2000 he went to work for ACCO as a Project Engineer and then in 2005 he took on his current role as Project Manager. Although ACCO is a Design/Build firm that tests and balances its own jobs, Jack is starting to bid more plan and spec work. Jack’s NEBB Certification is for Testing, Adjusting and Balancing, and even though he is not specifically using his certification in his present position he maintains his certification for future possibilities. He finds that his NEBB certification helps him to generate more work for ACCO. He is proud of his NEBB certification and feels that the NEBB certification sets a person a notch above, letting everyone know that he has attained a certain level of knowledge and experience.

“Our NEBB Certification has been beneficial because it gives our customers the sense of security knowing the strict procedural standards are being met and that they can count on the quality of work being performed. When they ask us what our qualifications are and we respond that we are NEBB certified, there seems to be an end to the questions and usually an approval of the project. Our customers understand the importance and value of our NEBB certification.”

ACCO has worked on many projects, and with countless companies and institutions over the years such as Google, Adobe, Pixar, Cisco, Netflix, Stanford, Apple, Facebook, Genentech and Yahoo, to name a few.
Volunteerism is the life blood of NEBB. Without volunteers to help with the organization and development of NEBB, we would not have achieved such a high standing in the built community. There are many ways that an individual can volunteer with NEBB.

Our Chapter is committed to the growth and continuing high level of standards provided by NEBB. We are very involved at committee and Board levels. The following Chapter members are volunteering their time in the following NEBB positions:

- Standards Council - Amber Ryman, ACCO Engineered Systems
- TAB Committee - Steve Smith, Pacific Test & Balance, Inc.
- Title 24 Committee - Amber Ryman, ACCO Engineered Systems
  Audrey Kearns, No. Calif/Hawaii NEBB Chapter Coordinator
- Subject Matter Experts (SME) - Brent Hahn, Pacific Test & Balance, Inc.
  Ryan Chang, TAB Engineers, LLC

If you are interested in volunteering, NEBB is looking for more Subject Matter Experts (SME). Contact your local Chapter or Cindi Hereth at NEBB for more information. Thank you.
Upcoming Events

NEBB SOUND AND VIBRATION CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR & OPTIONAL EXAM

June 6—June 10, 2016
All Day Event
Deerfield Beach, FL
Contact the NEBB Office to sign up or to receive more information at www.nocalhawaiinebb.org

NEBB TAB CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL REVIEW SEMINAR & OPTIONAL EXAM

June 6—June 9, 2016
All Day Event
Chicago, IL
Contact the NEBB Office to sign up or to receive more information at www.nocalhawaiinebb.org

NEBB FUME HOOD TESTING SEMINAR AND OPTIONAL EXAM FOR CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS

September 19—September 23, 2016
Kansas City, MO
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.