NEBB’s California Acceptance Test Certification Program Goes Live

NEBB’s Mechanical Acceptance Testing Certification program is now live.

What is “Title 24”?

NEBB is an approved Certification Provider for acceptance test technicians and employers under Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Often referred to as “Title 24”, this program has been in place since 1978 and was originally limited to Energy Conservation Standards for New Residential Buildings. The program was expanded in 1980 to include new nonresidential buildings. NEBB’s certification program specifically deals with Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, Section 10-103.2 (2016) – Nonresidential Mechanical Acceptance Test Training and Certification. Section 10-103.2 deals specifically with the requirements for nonresidential mechanical Acceptance Test Technicians (ATT) and Employers (ATE) and the Certification Providers (ATTCP) that train and certify them.

What is changing?

Mechanical Acceptance testing was introduced in the 2005 Energy Standards. The tests are performed to ensure that equipment, systems and controls operate as required by the Standards. These tests include visual inspections, functional testing, and certification requirements. Mechanical Acceptance tests apply to new equipment and systems installed in new construction, change-out or retrofit applications. If an acceptance test is required, the appropriate form along with each specific test is required to be submitted to the AHJ before a final occupancy permit can be granted. Mechanical acceptance testing under Title 24 has been a requirement for years. However; the requirement has not been enforced equally among the various jurisdictions. What is changing is
that acceptance tests will need to be performed by certified technicians. 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, 2016, sufficient participation has not occurred so the certification requirement is not yet mandatory.

NEBB is currently providing training and certification based on the 2013 code. The CEC has since approved the 2016 code; that code goes into effect on 01/01/2017. Additional training that includes the 2016 changes will be on-line soon; however there will still be a requirement for technicians and employers to hold certification under both versions of the code for the foreseeable future as projects that are permitted in 2016 will still need to be tested under the 2013 requirements even though the testing might occur in 2017 or 2018.

Why get certified under the NEBB program?

NEBB’s Mechanical Acceptance Testing program includes a modular approach to Mechanical Acceptance Testing Technician Certification (MATTC). This modular approach allows NEBB to provide certification on a form-by-form basis, thereby allowing technicians and employers who work on smaller projects to only be certified for the equipment on which they actually perform acceptance testing.

Why get certified now?

The NEBB Board of Directors has established pre-threshold pricing for training and certification for mechanical acceptance test employers and technicians. Once the California certification thresholds are met (expected to occur prior to 2017), the training and test fees are subject to change.

Who is eligible for Certification?

Eligibility in the NEBB program is open to all qualified individuals and firms. This includes all contractors, consultants, engineering firms, and third-party certifiers. There is no requirement to be a signatory to a union; NEBB accepts both union and non-union employers and technicians.

NEBB Certification as a California Non-Residential Mechanical Acceptance Test Technician is limited to persons who have at least three years of verifiable professional experience and expertise in mechanical controls and systems.

NEBB Certification as a California Non-Residential Mechanical Acceptance Test Employer is open to all employers that meet the requirements for certification. This includes licensed HVAC contractors (C-4 or C-20) and professional engineering firms.

What costs are associated with the Certification Program?

Fees for Certified Employers include the same annual base fee of $1,475 per year (pro-rated) paid by all NEBB firms, as well as an annual $275 program fee. Firms that are already certified by NEBB do not need to pay an additional base fee. The employer application fee is $20. There is an employer on-line training fee of $250, and the employer exam fee is $250 (any additional retests are $250 each).
Fees for Certified Technicians include the same annual certification fee of $50 per year paid by all NEBB Certified Professionals. There is an application fee of $20, and a $40 fee for each entrance exam. There is a Technician on-line training fee of $40 per module delivered, and the Technician exam fee is $40 per exam delivered (any additional retests are $250 each). Practical exam fees are dictated by the hands-on training and testing facility. More information on practical exam fees and scheduling can be obtained by contacting Brownson Technical School at http://brownson.edu/.

More information on the NEBB program can be found on the NEBB website at http://www.nebb.org/certified/mechanical_acceptance_testing/.
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HAVE YOU HEARD?
DPR Construction is a unique, technical builder with a passion for results. Ranked in the top 50 general contractors in the country since 1997 (just seven years after its founding), DPR is a forward-thinking general building contractor and construction manager specializing in technically challenging and sustainable projects for the advanced technology, healthcare, life sciences, commercial and higher education markets.

Whether it is a multi-million-dollar technical facility or a conference room renovation, the DPR team executes every project with relentless accountability. They listen to customer goals, develop strategies based on their business needs and track their performance. They do everything they can to earn their customers’ trust and build great lasting relationships.

The DPR story begins in July of 1990. Armed with $750,000 of pooled resources, three construction industry veterans, Doug Woods, Peter Nosler and Ron Davidowski (the D, the P and the R), co-founded DPR and set out to do something different in an industry traditionally resistant to change. Today, the company has grown to a multi-billion-dollar company with over 4,000 employees and 21 offices across the country.

DPR exists to build great things: great teams, great relationships, great value. DPR’s mission is to be one of the most admired companies by the year 2030. Their purpose and core values clearly define who they are and what they stand for as a company and underlie the passion that drives them to be better and different.

DPR Core Values:

INTEGRITY: We conduct all business with the highest standards of honesty and fairness; we can be trusted.

ENJOYMENT: We believe work should be fun and intrinsically satisfying; if we are not enjoying ourselves, we are doing something wrong.

UNIQUENESS: We must be different from and more progressive than all other construction companies; we stand for something.

EVER FORWARD: We believe in continual self-initiated change, improvement, learning and the advancement of standards for their own sake.
Gordon Yu is a National Environmental Balancing Bureau (NEBB) certified Building Systems Commissioning Professional with over 32 years of diverse experience in construction, including projects in life sciences, healthcare, advanced technology and education. In 2016, he joined the NEBB Title 24 Committee, which he will serve on for the next two years, focusing on developing training and certification for NEBB firms in accordance with California’s Title 24. The law requires technicians to be trained with a state-approved certifying program to perform inspections and certifications of MEP systems for new construction projects.

After getting his degree in electrical engineering in Taiwan, Gordon relocated to the U.S. and opened ACCU Balance, a test and balance company. He became NEBB TAB-certified in 1990, and then attained his BSC and Sound & Vibration Certification before joining DPR Construction in 2006 as a MEP coordinator. Since then, Gordon has played key roles in data center commissioning across the country, including a confidential 150-megawatt data center, was one of the largest in the world. Gordon’s wide range of expertise also includes gas turbine cogeneration, as well as constructing hospitals, corporate campuses and life science facilities.

Receiving certification from the NEBB organization builds upon a strong internal commissioning program established by DPR nearly 20 years ago. This focus on commissioning has helped DPR create a process that can be adapted to specific projects. For each project, DPR provides start-up and commissioning services and tailors the commissioning plan and documents to meet the design requirements as specified, even going as far as providing training videos for the owner’s operating personnel, if requested. As such, certification is an extension of DPR’s own commissioning program, and, as described by NEBB, is meant to serve as tangible proof of competent firms and supervisors qualified in the proper methods and procedures for building systems commissioning.

DPR’s expertise in the advanced technology, life sciences and healthcare markets, which all rely on sophisticated technology and frequently require more exact climate-controlled conditions, also made the case for DPR’s certification even stronger.

One of the few builders to recognize the need to further enhance the quality control of overall construction by staffing MEP and commissioning coordinators in the field, DPR’s NEBB certification provides its start-up and commissioning services with more credibility and better performance, as they move ever forward and continue to build great things for decades to come.
Leave the ladder behind!

The Kanomax 6715 Capture Hood sends data wirelessly to your phone or tablet.

Kanomax USA, Inc.
info@kanomax-usa.com
URL: www.kanomax-usa.com
More than a few people think that getting a NEBB certification involves attending a training course and taking a test. While those two aspects can certainly be part of the overall certification process, becoming NEBB-certified involves much more than that.

Being part of a professional certification program is a stepped approach, with individuals going through the proper procedures in a timely manner to get the most out of the certification experience and achieve NEBB certification.

A Quick Overview

Those who apply for any NEBB certification program are considered Applicants and must meet specific prerequisites of that discipline’s certification program (education and/or professional experience) and must submit documentation that verifies the information. Applicants meeting all eligibility requirements are then granted the status of Candidate.

Candidates are encouraged to advance their knowledge through self-study, attendance at specific training courses, on-the-job training. When they are fully prepared, they may then sit for and pass all necessary exams. Adhering to NEBB’s Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is also part of earning certification. The end result is applying for the actual certification, paying a fee to receive the Certification Number and formal certificate.

Step 1: The Application for Candidacy

The first step of the certification process is acquiring the necessary prerequisite education and training for the specific certification. Once those requirements are met, Applicants may obtain the appropriate Application for Candidacy by emailing certification@nebb.org. Application processing takes time and everyone is encouraged to start the process as soon as they decide to pursue certification.

Step 2: From Applicant to Candidate

Information provided in the Application for Candidacy and the supporting documentation is used to determine the Applicant’s eligibility. The Application for Candidacy form, all supporting documentation, and a non-refundable application fee must be submitted before going to the next step. Applicants are also required to sign the NEBB Code of Conduct and NEBB Agreement to Arbitrate and acknowledge having read and be bound by NEBB’s current Bylaws, Operational Procedures and Procedural Standards.

Upon approval, Applicants are considered Candidates and receive an email confirmation along with instructions for registering and scheduling their specific exam. The email will include authorization to take the exam along with information about the date, time, and location of the exam, be it taken online at a Kryterion Test Center or as a paper-based exam at a specific NEBB event.

Step 3: Study and Prepare

Candidates are strongly encouraged to prepare for their exams through a combination of self-study, attendance at industry training events, and participating in peer group study sessions that enhance their area of knowledge and expertise. A wide variety of publications are available at www.nebb.org and more infor-
Step 4: Scheduling Exams -- Written and/or Practical

Each NEBB certification requires an exam, be it online or paper-based, and in some cases is combined with a practical written exam or a practical hands-on exam.

1. Computer-based Written Exams may be taken at Kryterion test centers located worldwide.
2. Paper-based Written Exams are offered at specific NEBB events held throughout the year.
3. Practical Hands-on Exams may be taken at a designated test center.
4. Practical Written Exams may be scheduled at a national test center OR at a specific NEBB event.

Computer-based exams are offered on demand at more than 350 test centers within the United States and more than 700 test centers worldwide. Specific, computer-based exams locations are listed on Kryterion’s website: [http://www.kryteriononline.com](http://www.kryteriononline.com). Paper-based exams are also made available periodically in conjunction with NEBB events, such as specific discipline seminars or the NEBB Annual Conference.

Many of NEBB’s certification programs require a practical exam in addition to a standard written exam. Practical exams can be administered in two forms: Written Practical or Hands-on Practical.

1. Written Practical Exams can be scheduled through NEBB or at select locations throughout the U.S. Contact the NEBB office or certification@nebb.org for more information.

2. Hands-On Practical Exams can be scheduled through the Candidate’s local Chapter or through a NEBB Chapter closest in proximity.

Step 5: Awarding of Certification

Upon successful completion of all the prerequisites and passing the certification exam, Candidates receive notification about how to complete the final step to achieve their new certification status, which is completion of the Application for Certification and payment of their certificate fee.

Upon receipt of the required documentation at the National Office, Candidates will be sent their official certificate and Certificant number and are now known as “Certificants,” joining the ranks of those who raise the level of professionalism within the HVAC and related fields.

About the Author

Sheila Simms is the Certification Manager for NEBB. She has worked with NEBB Applicants, Candidates and Certificants for over a decade and is the familiar voice when people call in asking questions about “How do I get certified?”
Save the Date!
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Work is a buzzing based on the feedback I have heard, the shortage of qualified manpower and the cranes in the air. As the end of 2016 approaches, we need to start thinking about all our certified personnel and firm re-certifications and moving forward with the industry changes.

The new re-certification process is starting to get tested. We have heard from some of you and Audrey is addressing all the changes and your questions as fast as we get the information. We know there will be questions and we want to know the answers also, so please work with us.

Remember your CEC’s for NEBB technicians. NEBB sent out a list of qualifications on what is acceptable for CEC. I recommend that you go over this list with your technicians before there are any delay’s in your re-certification process. If you cannot find the list, reach out to Audrey for the letter as the process takes some thought and planning.

As in the past, Title 24 continues to grow. Your board members’ firms are seeing more and more work with the Title 24. I recommend that you stay ahead of the game. If you have any questions, Audrey Kearns, Chapter Coordinator and Amber Ryman, President Elect and Title 24 Co-Chair, can help you. We hope your work continues to stay this busy.

As usual, the Chapter needs volunteers. The changes at NEBB with ANSI and Title 24 have shifted our Board of Directors and committee responsibilities but we can always use your help to maintain our Chapter. Please contact Audrey if you have any interest on any level. Thank you.

Steven G Smith
2016 NorCal Hawaii NEBB Chapter President.
All NEBB Certified Personnel and Firms Received Their Log-in to Their On-line Profile Via Email on October 14, 2016 from NEBB.

If you did not receive your log-in information, contact Sheila at sheila@nebb.org and ask her to resend you the link and log-in information.

This portal will allow you to recertify if you are due this year. It will also allow you to submit your education hours and will keep track of your hours needed.

Remember all Certified Professionals, Certified Technicians and Firms should have received this email. Thank you.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEBB RECERTIFICATION

Certified Professionals and Certified Technicians are required to attain Continuing Education Credits (CEC) to maintain their NEBB certification.

Certified Professionals are required to achieve 12 hours every 2 years and Certified Technicians are required to achieve 6 hours every 2 years. Without your required hours you are not eligible to recertify.

Every Certified Professionals and Certified Technician has an on-line profile where you should be submitting and recording your Continuing Education Credits (CEC). If you need help with this please contact NEBB.

The following pages will outline for you what is eligible to satisfy the Continuing Education Credits (CEC) for both the Certified Professional and the Certified Technician.
1. NEBB Certified Professionals (CPs) must obtain 12 Continuing Education Credits (CECs) within their current two-year cycle.
   a. A minimum of 6 of the 12 CECs must be submitted from NEBB events per two-year cycle.
   b. CPs may combine CEC opportunities from any Category on the Chart below to achieve 12 CECs.
   c. Payment of the non-refundable Certified Professional Renewal Fees is required for recertification.
2. CPs with CECs exceeding the 12 CEC requirement within a two-year cycle cannot "carry over" CECs into their next certification cycle.
3. CPs holding multiple certifications can apply CECs simultaneously to all active NEBB certifications if cycles overlap.
4. CEC activity must be submitted with acceptable documentation attached to the Submission form. Specifics below.
5. Chapters with Certificants outside of the continental US:
   a. Coordinators can submit a request on behalf of their Certificant to the NEBB EVP for CEC approval of alternative industry training taken.
   b. Chapter Coordinators will be notified about approved submissions by the Director of Certification.
   c. Certificants outside the continental U.S. must follow submission procedures as stated within this Policy document.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Eligible Events</th>
<th>Eligible CECs</th>
<th>Documentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live or Online Education Events</td>
<td>Training Courses, Discipline Seminars, NEBB Chapter meetings or Union-sponsored training; accepted events from other industry-related professional organizations</td>
<td>Up to 7 CECs per full day</td>
<td>Certificate of Completion or Proof of Attendance with course hours listed; (Reminder: 50% of CECs must be from NEBB events within a 2-year cycle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(NEBB &amp; Non-NEBB)</td>
<td>Webinars and online training programs</td>
<td>1 CEC per 1 hour online</td>
<td>Transcripts; Certificate of Attendance or Completion with course dates identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical, Community,</td>
<td>College, community or technical college courses: pertaining to building science, project management, construction, business, HVAC, OSHA, building science, commissioning, testing, adjusting, balancing or retro-commissioning, plumbing, fire protection, green building</td>
<td>3 CECs per 1 college credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>or College Courses</td>
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<td>NEBB Leadership &amp; Governance</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; Governance Participation: Includes active participation on NEBB Discipline Committees, Exam Development Committee, Subject Matter Expert Sub-Committee, Board of Directors, Certification Board, Job Task Analysis Sub-Committees</td>
<td>1 CEC for 1 hour</td>
<td>Formal letter from NEBB outlining and verifying volunteer activity and dates of service. Contact NEBB Directors or Committee Chairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Certifications</td>
<td>New Certifications: NEBB or other industry-related certifications related to engineering, commissioning, retro-commissioning, testing, balancing, adjusting, sound, vibration, fume hood, cleanroom, building science, building testing, or other related fields.</td>
<td>6 CECs per Certification</td>
<td>Certificate or letter from organization outlining specifics of certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaking/Articles</td>
<td>Presenter/Co-Presenter: Presentation plus pretime (discipline / conference)</td>
<td>1 CEC per 1 hour for presentation</td>
<td>Letter from Sponsor or Coordinator confirming teaching, duration of program, and information presented; Copy of published piece with publication date</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Published Technical Writings: in a peer-reviewed industry publication: must be related to design, construction, testing and commissioning, code enforcement and operations.</td>
<td>3 CECs per article</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulatory Work</td>
<td>Development or maintenance of regulatory standards: includes providing testimony, official review, writing local or national codes, serving on a NEBB, ASHRAE or other national industry-related committee involved with writing standards and guidelines.</td>
<td>1 CEC per 1 hour of participation</td>
<td>Document regulatory involvement. Formal letter outlining and verifying volunteer activity and dates of service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. NEBB Certified Technicians (CTs) must obtain 6 (six) Continuing Education Credits (CECs) within their current two-year cycle.
   a. A minimum of 3 of the 6 CECs must be submitted from NEBB events per two-year cycle.
   b. CTs may combine CEC opportunities from any Category listed on the Chart below to achieve six (6) CECs.
   c. Payment of the non-refundable Certified Technician Renewal Fees is required for recertification.
2. CTs with CECs exceeding the 6 CEC requirement within a two-year cycle cannot “carry over” CECs into their next certification cycle.
3. CTs holding multiple certifications can apply CECs simultaneously to all active NEBB certifications if cycles overlap.
4. CEC activity must be submitted with acceptable documentation attached to the Submission Form. Specifics below.
5. Chapters with Certificants outside of the continental US:
   a. coordinators can submit a request on behalf of their Certificant to the NEBB EVP for CEC approval of alternative industry training taken.
   b. Chapter Coordinators will be notified about approved submissions by the Director of Certification.
   c. Certificants outside the continental U.S. must follow submission procedures as stated within this Policy document.

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<tr>
<td>Live or Online Education Events</td>
<td>Training Courses, Discipline Seminars, NEBB Chapter meetings or Union-sponsored training; accepted non-NEBB professional organizations</td>
<td>6 CECs per full day (6 hours) with documentation</td>
<td>Certificate of Completion or Proof of Attendance with course hours listed (Reminder: 3 CECs within a 2-year cycle must be from NEBB events)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(NEBB &amp; Non-NEBB)</td>
<td>Webinars &amp; online training programs</td>
<td>1 CEC per 1 hour online</td>
<td>Transcripts; Certificate of Attendance or Completion with course dates identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical, Community, or College-related Courses</td>
<td>Community, Technical, College or Union Apprenticeship Courses: including, but not limited to construction, air conditioning, business, HVAC, OSHA, sheet-metal, CAD-drawing or any course related to topics specific to the certification.</td>
<td>3 CECs per course or per year of apprenticeship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 6 CECs can be submitted from this category per 2-year cycle.</td>
<td>New Certifications: from related fields or applicable industries including, but not limited to: HVAC, air conditioning, testing, adjusting, balancing, sound, vibration, cleanliness</td>
<td>3 CECs per additional certification (per 2-year cycle)</td>
<td>Certificate or letter from organization outlining specifics of certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Training</td>
<td>Safety Training Courses: from OSHA or other industry-recognized and approved safety providers.</td>
<td>2 CECs per 10-hour OSHA; 3 CECs per 30-hour Supervisory Course</td>
<td>Certificate of Completion or Proof of Attendance with course hrs. listed</td>
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<td>Up to 3 CECs can be submitted from this category per 2-year cycle.</td>
<td>Vendor-sponsored Lunch &amp; Learn Event: including but not limited to Vendor equipment shows, in-house equipment training.</td>
<td>1 CEC per 1 Lunch &amp; Learn Event</td>
<td>Certificate of Completion or Proof of Attendance with course hours listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor Lunch &amp; Learn Events</td>
<td>In-house Training Events: including but not limited to testing, adjusting, balancing, commissioning, retro-commissioning, cleanroom performance testing, fume hood, sound, vibration, safety, business.</td>
<td>1 CEC per 1 In-House Training Event</td>
<td>Certificate of Completion or Proof of Attendance with training hours and course description listed</td>
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<td>Limit of 1 CEC can be submitted from this category per 2-year cycle.</td>
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<td>In-House Training Events</td>
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Upcoming Events

NEBB BUILDING ENCLOSURE TESTING (BET) SEMINAR

March 27-28, 2017, Monday - Tuesday
All Day Event
Orlando, Floriday
Registration Deadline March 13th. Contact the NEBB Office to sign up or to receive more information at www.nocalhawaiinebb.org

NEBB WEBINARS AND EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

For more Training and Educational seminars and Information, visit www.nebb.org.

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