

ETCP certification increasing demand for technical training

Look for ETCP designations: Recognized Trainer, Recognized Training Program, and Recognized Training Provider

THE INAUGURAL GROUP, OF ALMOST 200 RIGGERS who were certified in 2005, was due to recertify last November, as ETCP Certification is valid for five years. A whopping 94% of those technicians recertified and we hope to have the same sort of results with the first class of over 100 electricians which is due to recertify this fall. There are currently another 800 technicians who will also need to recertify in the coming years, not to mention the hundreds of candidates who are applying to take the exams each year. I bring up these numbers not to astound you with ETCP's dazzling recertification statistics, but instead to impress upon you the number of people who are looking for training opportunities all over North America.

“Technology and practices . . . evolve every day and it is essential for certified technicians to be up-to-date and familiar with new products and standards.”

ETCP Certified Technicians are required to participate in on-going professional education to maintain their certification. Eight weeks prior to their recertification date, certificants must turn in a logbook containing their renewal credits. To qualify for recertification, they must have 40 total points of work experience and continued training/professional development. At least ten of those points must come from an educational activity such as a class they attended, a class they taught, or from standards writing. Thirty points can come from work experience (one point per forty hours of work experience), but the ETCP Council made those ten education points a requirement for a reason.

Technology and practices in the entertainment industry evolve every day and it is essential for certified technicians to be up-to-date and familiar with new products and standards. With those training requirements established, ETCP wanted to make quality training easier to find for certificants, thus ETCP Training Recognition was introduced. ETCP carefully vets training opportunities from organizations and individuals who apply to participate in the program; once approved they become ETCP Recognized. There are currently three designations: Recognized Trainer, Recognized Training Program, and Recognized Training Provider. Any certificant who takes a Recognized course will receive one point per hour of attendance. Certificants may take non-recognized courses for renewal credits as well, but they will spend more hours getting those credits because these only earn half a point per hour of attendance.

One of the greatest benefits the entertainment industry reaps from ETCP Certification is that it seems to have sparked an interest in training from all directions. Certificants are begging for more advanced courses that they can take for renewal credits. In addition to the comprehensive courses that are offered at USITT and LDI, certificants are seeking educational opportunities closer to home and there are not many of these available. ETCP has clearly created a demand for training that did not previously exist and this is a huge opportunity for those who provide training.

ETCP Recognized Trainer

If you are an individual who provides training on a regular basis, you might want to look into becoming an ETCP Recognized Trainer in rigging, electrical, or both. Trainer Recognition is a good fit for trainers who teach courses to a variety of audiences and adjust curricula to suit each audience. This program allows ETCP to recognize an individual based on his or her experience and expertise and acknowledges that they may be teaching many different types of courses and subjects. ETCP uses a point system to determine if trainers are eligible, and anyone who wishes to apply must be ETCP certified. The application calls for a substantial amount of teaching experience; trainers receive ten points per one hundred classroom hours and they must have at least twenty points in this

ETCP exams at LDI

All three ETCP examinations will be offered at LDI 2011 in Orlando:

Entertainment Electrician – October 28 (afternoon)

Arena Rigging – October 29 (morning)

Theatre Rigging – October 29 (afternoon)

Application deadline: September 29, 2011

Space is limited; submit your application in plenty of time!

ETCP Recognized

Recognized Rigging Trainers: Mongo Andrews, William Auld, Patrick Bash, Roy Bickel, David Boevers, Marcel Boulet, David Charbonneau, Don Childs, Marty Cohen, Olan Cottrill, Stu Cox, Dick Delay, Jonathan Deull, Douglas Fowkes, Mike Garl, Jay Glerum, Jerry Gorrell, Kelly Green, Delbert Hall, Kent Jorgensen, Jean-Yves Laroche, William McCorkle, Stephen McEntee, Ron Muise, Tracy Nunnally, Brian Parker, Rocky Paulson, Johnny Perri, G. Anthony Phillips, Eddie Raymond, Eric Rouse, Bill Sapsis, Chris Schmidt, and Patrick Stewart

Recognized Electrical Trainers: Richard Cadena, Milton Davis, Tony Giovannetti, Jerry Gorrell, Mitch Hefter, John Huntington, Roger Lattin, Derek Leffew, George Long, M. Eric Rimes, Alan Rowe, Jared Saltzman, Patrick Stewart, Steven R. Terry, Ken Vannice, and Rich Wolpert

Recognized Training Programs: Academy of Production Technology, BNW Rigging, Daktronics, Mountain Productions, Stage Rigging, Tomcat, and USITT Electrical Workshop

Recognized Training Providers: Columbus McKinnon-ET, Electronic Theatre Controls, J.R. Clancy, and FTSI Automation

area to apply. To be approved, a trainer must have a total of fifty points and may also claim points for standards writing, serving as an SME for a work safety program, work experience as a supervisor of installations, and experience in product design or manufacturing of electrical or rigging equipment. All applicants must submit an explanation of their points including detailed information about his or her teaching experience. There is a one-time fee of \$250 and, once approved, the trainer's contact information is listed on the website and any course taught (as long as ETCP is notified of when and where) is listed in the quarterly certificant newsletter and on The ESTA Foundation website's Educational Resources area.

Recognized Training Program

If you are a trainer who is not certified and it might not be appropriate for you to become certified (because you train in a specialized area, such as console operation, and do not work out in the field), you can have a course curriculum approved as a Recognized Training Program. This designation is also appropriate for organizations that provide training with a set course syllabus, utilize a number of instructors, and offer the same course on multiple dates. Interested parties must submit an application and attach a schedule/agenda indicating the program topics and length, a

list of instructors (including biographies, CV, and/or resumes) and a brief program description that identifies the intended audience and program objectives. Product specific educational activities can be approved when they are designed to convey application guidelines, proper installation, or service and troubleshooting techniques applicable to the areas of rigging and/or electrical. Courses that are product specific that appear to be sales pitches or product endorsements will not be approved. The cost of having one course recognized for a two-year period is \$1,000 (\$500 for non-profits). As long as the course content remains unchanged, recognition may be renewed at the end of two years by simply paying the fee.

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All approved courses are listed on the ETCP website with contact information, dates, program description, training provider logo, and a link to the organization's website. Courses are also listed in the quarterly certificant newsletter and on The ESTA Foundation website's Educational Resources area. Many organizations have found that this is a very smart way to spend marketing dollars, as they have seen a boom in course attendance.

Recognized Training Provider

As more organizations with extensive course offerings participated in the Recognized Training Program, it became apparent that ETCP needed to make it financially feasible for an organization to apply to have more than one course recognized; thus, the Recognized Training Provider designation was created. Organizations can now apply to have multiple courses recognized and listed, but each individual course must be approved. Once you have been recognized as a provider, new courses may be submitted for approval at any time. This option may also be appropriate for an individual trainer who teaches multiple courses but is not ETCP Certified. There is a \$2,500 (\$1,250 for non-profits) fee and approval is granted for two years.

If you are ETCP Certified and have questions about whether a course you are attending will count towards renewal credits, email Meredith at etcp@plasa.org. ■



Meredith Moseley-Bennett has been the Certification Manager for ETCP since 2007. Before coming to ETCP, Meredith was a costume designer for theatre and film and was Wardrobe Supervisor on *The Tony Danza Show* and *Walker, TX Ranger*.