We care—and so should you

NEXT YEAR, ETCP WILL CELEBRATE its ten year anniversary and to date almost 2,000 certifications have been issued. With so many Certified Technicians, it is important to remind everyone that there are systems in place that protect the integrity of the ETCP program. The Council’s vision back in 2005 was: “To develop a personnel certification program to the highest standards which recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and skills, and in specific disciplines within the entertainment technology field. By providing a thorough, independent assessment of knowledge, skills, and abilities for entertainment technology disciplines, the program seeks to enhance safety, reduce workplace risk, improve performance, stimulate training, and give due recognition to the professional skills of entertainment technicians.” After almost ten years in operation, it is clear that ETCP has had an impact on our industry.

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ETCP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

Each person who fills out an application agrees that he/she will abide by the ETCP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. A code of conduct is intended to be a central guide and reference for our technicians in support of day-to-day decision making. It is meant to clarify ETCP’s mission, values, and principles, and links them with the standards of our industry and solid professional conduct.

A code of conduct is also a tool to encourage discussions of ethics and to guide how certificants deal with the ethical dilemmas, prejudices, and gray areas that are encountered in everyday work. A code is meant to complement relevant standards, policies, and rules, not to replace them.

Codes of conduct offer an invaluable opportunity for responsible organizations to create a positive public identity for themselves, which can lead to a more supportive political and regulatory environment, and an increased level of public confidence and trust among important constituencies and stakeholders.

Holding ETCP certification demonstrates that the holder is in the top third of the industry professionals in North America in their field; and thus, he/she should serve as a role model in our industry. This is why the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is vital to the core of the program. The ETCP Code of Ethics states:

"This sets forth the code of ethics and professional standards to be observed by holders of documents of certification conferred by the Council of the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP). Certificate holders shall, in their professional activities, sustain and advance the integrity, honor, and prestige of this profession by adherence to these standards.

1. Hold paramount the safety and health of people, the protection of the environment, and the protection of property in the performance of professional duties; and exercise their obligation to advise clients, employers, employees, bystanders, and appropriate authorities of danger and unacceptable risks.

2. Maintain honesty, fairness, impartiality; act with responsibility and integrity. Adhere to high standards of ethical conduct, with balanced care for the interests of the public, employers, clients, employees, colleagues, and the profession. Avoid all conduct or practice that is likely to discredit the profession or deceive the public.

3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner; and only when founded upon full knowledge of the facts, and competence in the subject matter.

4. Undertake assignments only when qualified by education, training, or experience in the specific technical fields involved; and accept responsibility to maintain and continue one’s professional development and competence.

5. Avoid actions which falsify or misrepresent one’s professional qualifications, or misrepresent or exaggerate one’s degree of responsibility in, or for, the subject matter of prior assignments, or in the solicitation of employment.

6. Act in a manner free of bias with regard to religion, ethnicity, gender, age, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

This means if an ETCP Certified Technician is performing unsafe work practices and/or not adhering to these professional standards, we are encouraging you to report it to ETCP. You should submit a written complaint, outlining the basis of your claim and cite the specific violated standard(s). All written complaints will
be reviewed by the members of the ETCP Disciplinary Committee and there are three levels of sanctions: A Level One Sanction results in a warning to the technician in violation, Level Two results in a suspension of a certification for a specific time (not to exceed 12 months), and Level Three results in a permanent revocation of the person’s certification.

Administration fee waived for organizations offering ETCP Electrical paper and pencil exams
In order to keep the ETCP examinations fresh and current, the subject matter experts have written new questions for the Entertainment Electrician examination. To gather the statistical data necessary to properly score the exam, it is essential that as many entertainment electricians as possible test during this time. Having your candidates test between these dates is an enormous help to the growth of the program!

- Test administration fee ($675) will be waived for the electrical exam for groups of 10 or more holding paper and pencil administrations.
- Administrations must be given between October 15 – December 15, 2014.
- Requests must be received five weeks prior to the exam date.
- ETCP will send a proctor to you, but space must be provided by your organization.
- Per candidate application fees will still apply.
- Candidate application deadlines will be set by the certification manager.
- Candidates must fill out the “Pre-arranged Paper and Pencil Application Form,” on the website.
- Please note that score reports will be delayed during this time.

For more information, please visit http://etcp.plasa.org/2014EE.

Save on the cost of ETCP exams by applying before December 31, 2014
If you have been thinking about testing to become ETCP certified, now is the time to apply—as fees will increase $50 per exam on January 1, 2015. Candidates have up to one year from your acceptance date to take your examination, so sign up today to save.

New Rates for ETCP Exams:
Non-members: $650
Constituents of Council members: $550
Second Rigging exam within one year
Non-members: $450
Constituents of Council members: $350
Retake fee for failed exam within two years
Non-members: $225
Constituents of Council members: $175

Meredith Moseley-Bennett has been the ETCP Certification Manager since 2007. Before coming to ETCP, Meredith was a costume designer for theatre and film, but now spends her time chasing after her precocious (but wonderful) three-year old daughter and gardening.