



Veteran industry riggers, identified by their peers as subject matter experts, have been meeting since last fall at AMP in Kansas to develop the ETCP rigging examinations. Front Row: Michael Reed, Glenn Hufford, Rocky Paulson, and Roy Bickel. Second row: Kelly Green, Bill Sapsis, Eddie Blue, Jack Suesse, Stéphane Mayrand, and Sammy Stokes. Back Row: Scott Sloan, John Bleich, James Doherty, David Boevers, G. Anthony Phillips, Eddie Raymond, Katie Geraghty (ETCP Certification Director), Karen Seifried, Brian Miller, Walter Murphy, Joseph McGeough, Peter Scheu, and Olan Cottrill. Not pictured: Harry Donovan and Edward Kish.

Sharpen Your Pencils: The ETCP rigging certification exams are ready. Are you?

BY KATIE GERAGHTY

YOU HAVE HEARD about them. You have thought about taking them. And now here is your chance to show the industry what you know. The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) is pleased to announce that the first administration of the rigging examinations will be held in conjunction with the ETS-LDI Tradeshow in November 2005. Those who pass this rigorous test will become ETCP Certified Riggers—and will be recognized as the industry's best.

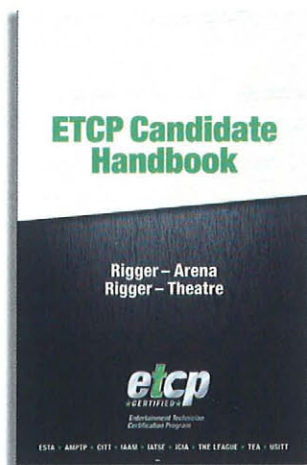
There are two ETCP rigging credentials, each with its own exam:

ETCP Certified Rigger – Arena
ETCP Certified Rigger – Theatre

Who is this examination for?

All experienced riggers are invited to take the industry's first rigging certification exam. The rigging certifications are designed for highly experienced riggers (rigging supervisors, high steel riggers, etc). Qualified riggers can apply for either one or both exams. Individuals must meet eligibility requirements to apply for the exam(s).

ETCP uses a point system to determine eligibility. An applicant must have 30 points to apply for either or both of the rigging examinations. The table (see sidebar page 12) lists the points awarded for various work experience, training (i.e., internships or apprenticeships) and education. Points can be earned through work experience alone or through a combination of the above.



Becoming ETCP Certified shows you are a standout in your craft and that you have demonstrated your dedication to professional growth. Candidates who pass the examinations in November 2005 will be the first ETCP Certified Riggers in North America and will be acknowledged as the only members of the "Class of 2005" on the ETCP website, www.etcpesta.org.

For the first time, riggers will be able to distinguish themselves by their skill levels. ETCP will become a benchmark throughout the industry.

What will be tested?

The ETCP Certified Rigger Examinations are designed to test a well-defined body of knowledge representative of current professional practice in rigging. Successful completion of a certification examination verifies broad-based knowledge in the discipline being tested.

To begin your preparation for the rigging certification examinations, you need to know what content areas are included in the actual examinations. Information regarding the content of the examinations is available in the sidebar (in an abbreviated version) and in the candidate handbook in complete form on the ETCP website.

The content for the examinations is based on a job analysis performed by twenty-four subject matter experts under the guidance of a professional psychometric firm, along with input from hundreds of riggers across North America.

Why is this program so necessary?

In a recent survey of industry employers, 81 percent said they would encourage employees or personnel working in their venues to seek certification in rigging. This finding shows that employers want an objective tool that helps them assess riggers' skills.

ETCP Certification provides that tool, helping employers immediately identify riggers with proven capabilities. Thomas C. Short, IATSE International President commented, "For the first time, riggers will be able to distinguish themselves by their skill levels. ETCP will become a benchmark throughout the industry." ETCP also helps you as a rigger by giving you a credential — ETCP Certified — that unmistakably says, "I know what I am doing."

ETCP certification promotes safety for technicians, performers and audiences, and provides validation and public recognition of your skills. Created by leading industry organizations, this certification program will:

EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE - ARENA RIGGING

(Abbreviated Version)

Examination Topic	Number of Questions
1. PLANNING AND ENGINEERING	60
A. FORMULAS AND FORCES	35
1. Calculate conversions: SI Imperial	
2. Apply mathematical formulas	
3. Apply general principles of forces	
4. Apply general principles of rigging	
5. Calculate sling length and forces	
B. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF RIGGING	15
1. Apply general principles of rigging	
C. DRAWING AND SCHEDULES	10
1. Identify and resolve hazardous situations	
2. Conform rigging plot to building load limitations or obstructions	
3. Interpret facility plans	
4. Interpret show plans	
5. Interpret hanging plot	
6. Generate hanging plot	
7. Perform layout – determine if adequate electrical power is available	
8. Verify assembly/integrity of objects to be lifted using stamped engineering drawings	
9. Verify assembly/integrity of objects to be lifted using allowable load charts	
2. INSTALLATION	45
A. LAYOUT AND ELECTRICAL	10
1. Perform layout	
2. General powered system requirements	
B. RIGGING ATTACHMENTS	20
1. Install rigging attachments	
2. Attach assembled hardware to drop/hand line	
3. Attach lifting device to objects to be lifted	
C. OPERATIONS	15
1. Perform lifting/lowering operations	
2. Confirm operation of control system and hoist	
3. Operate system	
3. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT	45
A. PERSONNEL ACCESS EQUIPMENT	15
1. Select what is needed for safe access	
B. RIGGING MATERIALS	30
1. Select rigging materials	
2. Curtain / Track	
TOTAL QUESTIONS	150

- **Promote safety** by building consensus for safety standards within the industry and by ensuring accountability. ETCP has established a process for addressing concerns about certified technicians' work performance and their compliance with the program's code of conduct.
- **Improve industry practices** by encouraging lifelong learning and professional development. Riggers will have to renew their certification every five years to maintain their credentials.
- **Give qualified riggers the recognition** they deserve. ETCP will maintain a publicly accessible list of certified entertainment riggers.

EXAMINATION CONTENT OUTLINE - THEATRE RIGGING

(Abbreviated Version)

Examination Topic

Number of

Questions

1. PLANNING AND LAYOUT	50
A. FORMULAS	6
1. Calculate conversions: SI Imperial	
2. Apply mathematical formulas	
3. Apply general principles of forces	
B. PRINCIPLES	44
1. Apply general principles of forces	
2. Apply general principles of rigging	
3. Identify and resolve hazardous situations	
4. Determine object weight	
5. Drawings and schedules	
6. Calculate sling length and forces	
7. Select what is needed for safe access	
8. Select rigging materials	
2. IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT	50
A. MANAGEMENT	25
1. Perform layout	
2. Install rigging attachments	
3. Inspect entire system after lifting device is attached to objects to be lifted	
4. Perform lifting/lowering operations	
B. IMPLEMENTATION	25
1. Install rigging attachments	
2. Perform lifting and lowering operations	
3. STANDARD SYSTEMS	50
A. STANDARD SYSTEMS	
1. Standard rigging systems	
2. Counterweight system	
3. Operate hemp system	
4. General powered system	
5. Operate dead haul powered system	
6. Curtain/Track	
7. Fire curtain/Smoke vents	
8. Fire curtain	
TOTAL QUESTIONS	150



Where will the exam be held?

The first administration of the rigging examinations will be held at ETS-LDI on November 12, 2005 in Orlando, Florida. These examinations will be the only examinations administered in 2005.

Candidates who are registered for the examination at ETS-LDI will receive a complimentary floor pass and a coupon for a 50% discount on a full conference pass.

The next examinations will not be administered until early 2006. These examinations will be offered at over 130 computer centers around the country.

How can I apply and become certified?

Applicants for the November 2005 examination at ETS-LDI must

Candidates who pass the examinations in November 2005 will be the first ETCP Certified Riggers in North America and will be acknowledged as the only member of the "Class of 2005."

complete the "ETS-LDI Examination" Rigging Certification Application Form. This application form MUST be postmarked on or before August 1, 2005.

Applications should be sent to:

ETCP

875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1005

New York, NY 10001-3507

Applicants who wish to apply for computer based testing need to complete the "Computer Based Testing 2006" Rigging Certification Application Form.

Complete information about the application process and examinations is available in the ETCP Candidate Handbook. The handbook and application forms can be downloaded from the ETCP website, www.etcp.esta.org. If you would prefer a copy of the handbook and application forms mailed to you, contact Katie Geraghty, ETCP Certification Director, at kgeraghty@esta.org or phone 212.244.1505.

The Volunteers Behind The Program

ETCP is the work of the industry's leading organizations, employers and unions. Most important, it is the work of leading riggers. Selected for their breadth and depth of knowledge, twenty-four veteran riggers (see accompanying photo) are working closely with the Council's selected psychometric services provider, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), to develop the examinations.

Under the auspices of the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA), ETCP is being developed with the following organizations: Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology (CITT/ICTS), Clear Channel Entertainment (CCE), International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM), International Communications Industries Association (InfoComm/ICIA), The League of American Theatres and Producers, Production Resource Group (PRG), Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), and United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT). ■

Qualifications Points Table

Type of Experience	Points	Documentation Required	Notes: Education credits may contribute a maximum of 10 points. All degrees must be achieved from an accredited institution.		
Rigging Work Experience	1 for each 100 hours 100 hour min. increment 1,000 hours (10 points) in a year is equivalent to 20 hours per week	A completed Employment History form containing contact information sufficiently detailed to allow verification by ETCP.	Associates Degree	2	An official transcript is required from the granting institution, photocopies are not accepted.
			Associates Degree in entertainment technology field	3	An official transcript is required from the granting institution, photocopies are not accepted.
Internship	1 for each 200 hours with a maximum of 5 points	A completed Applicant Evaluation form by the official representative of the internship is required.	Undergraduate Degree	3	An official transcript is required from the granting institution, photocopies are not accepted.
			Undergraduate Degree in entertainment technology field	7	An official transcript is required from the granting institution, photocopies are not accepted.
Apprenticeship	1 for each 100 hours with a maximum of 10 points	A completed Applicant Evaluation form by the official representative of the apprenticeship is required.	Graduate Degree	1	An official transcript is required from the granting institution, photocopies are not accepted.
			Graduate Degree in entertainment technology field	3	An official transcript is required from the granting institution, photocopies are not accepted.

What's your hang-up?



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