

December 2015

CSO News Update

NEWSLETTER FROM THE MANAGER

Hello everyone;

As we wind down for 2015, there have been many great achievements that we can all be proud of. As well, lots of exciting new plans for 2016.

The Construction Safety Certification Program continues to build and again, in 2015 is the fastest growing Technical Specialty group in ASTTBC. With the number of certified members now over 400, this speaks directly to the widening recognition of the value in certification by a Professional Association. Much of the credit goes to the Construction Safety Certification Board's vision, leadership and unwavering commitment. But more than anything, the strength of the CSO Program is reflective of the outstanding contributions made, every day, by all of you members out there in industry.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Events

Again this year, ASTTBC along with each of our four accredited CSO Training Course providers, hosted four CSO specific CPD events. All four were really well attended and two of those included the opportunity to join in via webcasts. Thanks go to BCIT and CLAC for providing the broadcasting of these events. For 2016 we plan to facilitate with our trainers another four CPD events for CSO. A minimum of two events will be webcast in 2016 and we are working towards having all four events webcast in the near future. If you would like to be a speaker or have ideas for any preferred topics, let us know.

Meet Your Certification Board

Your CS Certification Board plans to host a "meet your Board" event during one of the CPD webcasts in 2016. It is most likely in June, date to be confirmed. This will be an opportunity for you to get to know your Certification Board, offer input and ask Board members questions directly.

Networking and Partnering

ASTTBC continues to reach out and build partnerships within the construction and safety industries. Recently we have been invited to make a series of

presentations to the Vancouver, Kamloops and Kelowna Chapters of Canadian Society & Safety Engineering (CSSE). The Fraser Valley Chapter has invited us to speak to their members in January. Without exception we have been received warmly and with great interest in what we have to say about the CS Certification program.

CSSE, being an association of safety professionals, is a natural fit for ASTTBC as a professional association to partner with. Both ASTTBC and CSSE are independent professional associations whose members are held to clearly defined competencies, continuing education and a standard of conduct in practise to secure and maintain their certifications. Many ASTTBC CS Certification program registrants are also members of CSSE, hold the CHSC certification and work side by side with CSSE members. This close collaboration between our associations and members is invaluable in terms of a greater understanding of roles, a closer working relationship within industry and mutual access to CPD opportunities.

National and Provincial Coverage

The ASTTBC CS Certification program was highlighted in both National and Provincial publications this year. The Occupational Health and Safety Canada magazine identified ASTTBC as the only professional association in Canada to award a construction safety certification and applauded the fact that as a professional association that certification is independent of industry or other jurisdictions. An article published in the BC Journal of Commerce enabled ASTTBC to clarify several misunderstandings around the CS Certification program and clearly set out the distinct and fundamental advantages of a certification awarded by ASTTBC as a professional association.

Media

A brand new CSO webpage is now in the design process and we hope to launch in early 2016. We are also planning to create a short video clip to help explain the CS Certification Program, its value, purpose and why it is unique in Canada. It will be posted on the new CSO webpage and available to any interested persons as well as helping the training providers offer a consistent message to

their CSO Training Course students. Watch for this as the new webpage becomes active.

RCSO Reclassification

For those members who have held the CSO certification for at least three years, you may be eligible for the "Registered" CSO (RCSO) certification. As an RCSO you hold the senior construction safety certification awarded by ASTTBC and have exclusive right to that title. ASTTBC Council recently approved the use of an ASTTBC Professional Seal by RCSOs, in recognition of the significant positions and levels of responsibility typically held by an RCSO. If you meet the following standards, you may qualify for your "Registered Construction Safety Officer (RCSO) certification;

- a minimum 5 full years of employed experience in construction safety, including a minimum of 3 full years of employed experience as a CSO,
- 2 references from qualified persons in a position to testify to your experience and competence,
- a detailed listing of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for the period you have been certified by ASTTBC,
- a comprehensive description of your work experience and positions held over the past 5 years.

If you meet these criteria and believe you are ready to join the ranks of the ASTTBC Registered Construction Safety Officers, download the [APPLICATION PACKAGE](#) for reclassification.

Changes to CSO Training Course Completion Document

With the support of our accredited training providers, the completion document given to all successful graduates of the CSO Training Course will now be referred to as a "Statement Of Completion" to distinguish it from a Certificate.

In the past many have assumed a person who has completed the CSO Training Course is "certified" when in fact they are not. Our intent is to help graduated

students recognize that a "certification" is required before they can become a CSO and to protect the integrity of the certification awarded by ASTTBC.

Online Applications

Applications for all our Technical Specialist programs will be available online in 2016. This big step will help speed up the review process and make it much easier for applicants to submit an application for certification. A test will be run in early 2016, with the aim of having the system fully functional in the Spring.

CSO Survey

We are planning to conduct a survey of all members in early 2016. There have been many changes and much growth since our last survey in 2012, so we want to hear from you. Watch for a notice in January.

CSO Policy Update - Competency Statements

A re-write of the CSO Certification Policy - Categories of Workplace Competencies is nearing completion. The new standardized competency language will identify those competencies expected for holders of each of the levels of certification: CSO(P), CSO and RCSO. This will also entail an overall review of the CSO Policy to ensure the Policy language is aligned with the intent of the new Competency statements.

What is a CSO? (what is NOT a CSO?)

There continue to be reports of persons who misuse the title of CSO. As you all are aware, the titles of "CSO[®]" and "Construction Safety Officer[®]" are held by ASTTBC and protected by both Provincial Statute (The ASTT Act Of BC) and Federal Trademark Law. These titles are issued by ASTTBC for the exclusive use of certified and registered members of ASTTBC. So if a person can produce a current ASTTBC Identification Card he/she is in fact a CSO(P), CSO or RCSO. If he/she cannot produce the card...he/she is NOT. Also, the ASTTBC website has a register of all members, so if in doubt a simple search, by name will show who is a registered member of ASTTBC.

You have all worked hard to earn your certification and title. You all continue to work equally hard to build experience and continue to expand your education in order to maintain your certification. Please do not hesitate to bring to our attention any perceived misuse of "your" title.

Awards

Construction Safety Certification Board Chair, Bruce Jackson CRSP, RCSO(Hon) received an "Outstanding Service Award" from CSSE in Ottawa. This award recognizes leadership and a strong commitment to the safety profession. Bruce was singled out due to exceptional and tireless volunteer work he does with CSSE, ASTTBC and Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals (BCRSP) as well as numerous complimentary courses he has conducted over the years. A hearty "congratulations" to Bruce Jackson CRSP, RCSO(Hon) for all he so willingly gives to the safety profession and his role of ASTTBC CSO Certification Board Chair.

ErinPatrick Williams RCSO, a senior member of the CSO Certification Board received a National Canada Life Saving Award for his skill and professionalism in life saving actions. ErinPatrick is credited with saving a man's life, having suffered a heart attack. ErinPatrick administered CPR an AED and several "shocks" which revived the patient, allowing him to be transported to hospital for further care. ErinPatrick credits his training and the role of mandatory CPD as key to ensuring skills and competencies are always current. All members of ASTTBC wish to congratulate ErinPatrick Williams RCSO for his high level of professionalism and skill in an emergency.

In closing I want to thank each and every one of you for all that you do to help make workplaces safer for workers and the public. You can be rightfully proud of your professionalism and commitment.

Best Regards and looking forward to a great 2016!

Bruce Stevens, AScT
Manager Construction Safety Registrations