

*Broadcast*

*Email from the Manager December 2016*

*As we approach the end of 2016, it's been four years since we began working with the current CSO Certification Policy, adopted in January 2013.*

*In addition to the Newsletter below, some updates:*

- *The online application process at [Apply Now](#) is now functional and accepting applicants via the online system.*
- *Our new CSO Certification Program webpage is near completion and look for it to be deployed early in 2016.*
- *A CSO info video is being prepared to help prospective applicants, trainers and employers better understand the significant advantages which come with an ASTTBC certification in construction safety. We plan to have this video uploaded to the new web page in January.*
- *The number of registered members continues to grow and the CSO Program has more registered members than ever before, testament to the importance members, employers and the public are placing on a professional certification based on accountability.*

*This newsletter is designed to help refocus our attention on the real purpose of an ASTTBC certification in construction safety and the unique role that ASTTBC, as a Professional Association – the ONLY Professional Association in Canada – brings to the construction safety industry.*

*Best wishes from ASTTBC for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

*Bruce J. Stevens, AScT*

*Manager Construction Safety Registration*

*Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC*

December 2016

# CSO News Update

## NEWSLETTER FROM THE MANAGER

As we are now at the end of our fourth year under the current CSO Certification Policy, ASTTBC feels it is an ideal time to refresh and reaffirm ASTTBC's role within the construction and safety community in general.

The essence of this role is and always will be:

***ASTTBC, as your professional association, is committed to putting the interest of the public first and foremost and to work within the safety community in a cooperative and collaborative manner.***

So, what does this mean to you as an ASTTBC certified CSO(P), CSO or RCSO? One question which often arises is 'do I need both a CSO certification and industry issued tickets?'

To set the record straight, I refer to the CSO(P)/CSO/RCSO as a professional certification vs an industry 'ticket'. This is to help underscore the fact that a ticket is typically a one-time issued document which indicates completion of some level of training, and is issued by educators, industry, suppliers or private trainers. A professional certification such as your CSO (P), CSO or RCSO is awarded by a higher level, independent jurisdiction, such as ASTTBC and comes with conditions which the holder must meet on an ongoing basis, to retain that 'certification'. Your professional certification issued by ASTTBC under the authority of the *ASTT Act and Regulations* signals your commitment to assuring public health and safety and abiding by ASTTBC's Code of Ethics, to which you are fully accountable. You are one of over 10,000 Technology Professionals registered with ASTTBC. I will say more on this point.

ASTTBC has taken the position that there are construction safety practitioners, like yourselves, who choose to make construction safety a career and will recognize the unique value and distinction of the accountability which only comes with a certification awarded by ASTTBC.

An analogy to describe the relationship between the various tickets and the ASTTBC CSO certification is: consider the CSO certification as an umbrella, under which any

number of other tickets or non-professional designations can shelter. The ASTTBC certifications (which are protected titles) identify the holder as a practitioner who has chosen to abide by the public's expectation of accountability for professionals. Other tickets which demonstrate additional training programs or specific discipline training courses will then live side by side with the ASTTBC certification, under that umbrella of 'professionalism'. So, if an individual feels there is advantage to holding other tickets then certainly add them to the stable.

For you as a CSO (P), CSO or RCSO who have chosen to make construction safety a career, want to be recognized as part of a professional organization and are committed to being the best you can be, then the ASTTBC certification will be the foundation on which that career is built. Looking at the numbers of CSO registrants in ASTTBC and understanding what they have achieved in their careers is clear proof that the commitment to a professional attitude goes hand in hand with career advancement. Of significance, from our recent CSO Survey – **the #1 reason members maintain their certifications with ASTTBC? *'because they see the importance of belonging to an independent, professional association.'***

Let's also look briefly at the link between ASTTBC and training organizations. ASTTBC provides professional certification largely based on training provided by other parties. To make certain that their training meets ASTTBC standards, ASTTBC carries out a full review – called 'accreditation' – of the training programs. Visit the ASTTBC CSO web site to review the list of accredited training programs that lead to ASTTBC certification. This is the ASTTBC model and why we have accredited CSO Training Courses designed to meet our competency and learning outcome standards, rather than deliver training ourselves or facilitating via contract trainers. In this model ASTTBC ensures the strict separation of training from certification, which provides the essential credibility of that certification.

**Okay, it is time to also point out that 'size matters'!** You hold professional certification with ASTTBC, the 8<sup>th</sup> largest professional association in BC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the fields of Science, Technology and Engineering. The size of ASTTBC allows the Association to bring greater depth, scope and member advantages. Check the ASTTBC web site to find out more about the many member services available to you. There is the possibility that your annual renewal fee might be offset by taking advantage of these programs

I will wrap up by saying that some practitioners and employers will not embrace the importance of a certification from a professional association. That is their choice.

However, there will always be those, both practitioners and employers, who do recognize that BC's regulatory and business structure is rapidly moving towards demanding higher levels of accountability and a greater expectation of professionalism in practice.

Your continuing commitment to ASTTBC as 'your' professional association is clear proof that the CSO (P), CSO and RCSO certification resonates with you, whose focus is accountability and professionalism in practice.

ASTTBC assures you as members and the greater safety industry that your professional association is committed to the CSO Certification Program and will not compromise in our belief of working in a collaborative and cooperative approach to provide what is in the public and industry's best interest.

Here is wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Bruce Stevens ASCT  
Manager, Construction Safety Registrations