

2015

Report on ASTTBC's Fire Protection Certification Program



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10/6/2015

Introduction

In the recently published report dated May 22, 2015, submitted by Msrs. Brian Carr, PHD, BSc, and James Coble, MA, entitled **ASTTBC Technology Professionals: Value to the Public Interest** (attached as Annex "A"), I was struck by the common theme it shared with many grade-school report card forms that are being handed out throughout the Province. If you've seen one, you'll recognize it almost immediately because it's replete with carefully worded phrases that employ *warm sounding* words meant to encourage an enthusiasm for learning and ensure those children with more tender egos feel *okay* and *normal* about their performance and experiences, so they can become comfortable, productive members of society. Unfortunately such words and phrases lack a cogent opinion of the child's real abilities and are a poor yardstick from which to establish baseline performance levels. Giving everyone a prize for *first place* doesn't really prepare them for what they'll face in the *real world*, as adults, either.

So why issue such a report for a professional association? Does *commending* ASTTBC for things like *Council Governance*, *Professional Legislation and Regulation*, or *Rights to Practice* offer anything constructive in the way of guidance or meaningful critique? What positive feelings can one hope to possibly engender with the unfortunate reference to an ASTTBC *kingdom* (the first sentence under **Professional Recognition** on the report's last page)?

The "positive accomplishments in 2014 that are too numerous to isolate in this report" (which also appears on the report's last page under the heading **Other Initiatives**) is another example of the *warm fluff* that's used as stuffing for a *first place prize* awarded for performance and policy that will ensure ASTTBC stays on their present course, leaving the members of one particular Program to continue down a road with positively **no direction** and **no support**.

I would like to take this opportunity to file another report card for ASTTBC to "the Minister of Advanced Education, the Minister Responsible for the ASTT Act, all Members of the BC Legislative Assembly, and the BC Members of the Parliament of Canada". My report will offer a more direct, *unsweetened* evaluation of ASTTBC, their executive team, and the Fire Protection Certification Program's performance because it is written by someone that has been in the business of Life Safety for thirty (30) years, and a keen observer of ASTTBC's *efforts* over the course of the last twenty of them.

My name is Frank Kurz. I am the Executive Director of the Fire Technicians Network; an internationally recognized, British Columbia based technical resource for individuals engaged in the service, testing, inspection, installation, design and maintenance of building life safety equipment and systems. I Chair the ULC Working Group which produces the two Canadian Standards that are the testing criteria for both newly commissioned fire alarm systems (Verification) and existing ones (Annual Inspection). I'm also a member of the ULC's 500F Committee, and an active contributor to the Working Groups for CAN/ULC-S524 (Standard for Installation of Fire Alarm Systems), CAN/ULC-S561 (Standard for Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems, and CAN/ULC-S1001 (Standard for Integrated Testing of Building Life Safety Systems).

REPORT ON THE ASTTBC FIRE PROTECTION TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

October 6, 2015

1. Council Governance:

The ASTTBC Fire Protection Certification Board is responsible for establishing criteria for:

- ✦ Technician competence,
- ✦ The Standard of Practice,
- ✦ Acceptable educational programs,
- ✦ Technician oversight (through the auspices of the Practice Review Board),
- ✦ Ongoing education,
- ✦ Inspection and testing for the various disciplines (including acceptably formatted inspection documentation),
- ✦ Ongoing review of Codes, Standards, and Bulletins affecting the various fire protection equipment disciplines and the dissemination thereof to their registered membership,
- ✦ Levelling the playing field for fire protection equipment service providers,
- ✦ Recommending changes to the Program where necessary to ensure Public Safety, and
- ✦ Expanding the Program to other Jurisdictions within the Province.

The Certification Board has been, in large part, successful in developing a firm foundation for the Program. A number of individuals serving on the board deserve recognition for their efforts, service, and sacrifice. Unfortunately, this isn't the *Field of Dreams*. While *building* the Program has resulted in a large number of technicians *coming* to be registered, they are not *playing* on the *level field* that was promised them (a positive working environment governed by a shared Code of Conduct and Professional Practice).

ASTTBC's executive team has focused on the certification aspect of the Program as the means to establish a stable revenue stream, while the membership languishes in the absence of the promised benefits and support of *belonging* to an association that purportedly stands for *accountability*, *professional development* and *competent practice*. It is important for me to emphasize that the day-to-day management of the Program is not within the purview of the Certification Board. The **mismanagement** of the Program, and the failure to deliver on the Program's fundamental promise (the safety of the public), is the responsibility of ASTTBC's Chief Executive Officer and the individuals appointed to form his executive team.

2. Technician Competence:

The yardstick is broken. There is no method or procedure in place with which to judge a technician's competence other than a logbook (which can easily be altered or misused) and the *recommendation* of their employer(s) (a process that is rife with prejudice and fertile ground for abuse). There is no proactive means of ensuring registered technicians are performing their duties in the competent, responsible and professional manner expected by the jurisdictional authorities that have endorsed the Program (reference *Section 5 – Technician Oversight*).

Technicians are utilizing forms that don't comply with the various testing Standards, let alone the forms produced under ASTTBC's auspices (which are incidentally riddled with errors and outdated). You don't have to look very far to see that the technicians are NOT complying with the proper testing and inspection criteria. In point of fact, most of the malpractice I've seen is often done at the behest (and with the full blessing) of some rather amoral employers. The end result is that British Columbia's citizens are exposed to an unacceptable level of risk (reference *Section 9 – Levelling the Playing Field for Fire Equipment Service Providers*).

ASTTBC has **FAILED** to provide or maintain adequate means to measure and ensure uncompromised technician competence and professional practice.

3. The Standard of Practice:

It is the writer's carefully considered opinion that ASTTBC's Practice Guideline is one of the best documents of its kind ever produced. It is, however, a *living document* and one that must undergo regular review and revision (much like our National Codes and Standards).

ASTTBC has **FAILED** to provide either the method or the means through which such a review can take place. Various interpretations of its clauses have resulted in inconsistent technician practice as well as a number of contrary opinions and errors in judgement by the Practice Review Board when dealing with complaints involving similar examples of malpractice. The latter has negatively impacted several technician members who are provided nothing in the way of support throughout this process, and who have been required to pay exorbitant fines that further discourage engagement and positive discourse (one such individual actually resigned from the Program, abandoning a promising career, which is referenced on *Page 8 of Annex "B" – Fire Protection Case Summaries 2013 – Case 13-11*).

4. Acceptable Educational Programs:

The writer is currently engaged in reviewing the fire protection courses provided, in large part, by BCIT as well as the fire alarm courses that are the foundation of several other provincially accredited certification programs offered in Canada through the auspices of the Canadian Fire Alarm Association (CFAA). ASTTBC has accepted the educational credentials of the graduates of these courses but has never been directly involved in any formal review process that would lead to substantive and positive additions or revisions. For example, there are currently graduates of the fire extinguisher course who have never physically recharged one, or who fully understand the various testing methods and requirements of NFPA 10. There are individuals with certificates testifying to successful completion of a course in Fire Alarm Testing that have never performed a battery test or who do not comprehend the requirements for stand-by emergency power when a generator is part of the equation.

ASTTBC has **FAILED** to provide proper oversight and guidance to the educational institutions responsible for teaching their trainee technicians even when specific issues have been identified through either the complaint investigation process, or by various technically qualified professionals observing the malpractice of technicians participating in the Program.

5. Technician Oversight:

The writer continues to be presented with reports and documentation that demonstrate the total failure of ASTTBC to provide the proper oversight of technicians participating in inspection and testing of building life safety equipment (through legally enacted local Bylaws). ASTTBC has continued their twenty year *tradition* of hiring retiree Fire Prevention Officers to manage the Program in order to pay lip service to the association's claims of *full accountability* and the *professional practice* of their technician members. Employing these individuals helps ASTTBC leverage an already established and mutual *comradery* with serving Fire Prevention Officials in order to promote the Program in those jurisdictions that do not yet subscribe to it (not to mention their *dream* of Province-wide acceptance). While these appointees are well versed in the Fire Code and understand the responsibilities and requirements, their backgrounds are so far removed from the industry that it's difficult for them to sympathize with the daily challenges registered and trainee technician members face in the performance of their duties, let alone comprehend the complexities of physically testing the various new technologies involved. Their efforts are further hampered by an executive team that restricts complaint investigation and compliance, as well as the Program's management, to a mere ten (10) hours per week respectively.

ASTTBC has **FAILED** their mandate, within the communities they serve, to ensure the requirements of the British Columbia Fire Code (2012) are adequately addressed by trained, competent, professional technicians and any claims to the contrary are both false and intended to mislead. An experienced technician that is fully conversant with the Codes, Standards, and the technical aspects of testing complex equipment must be involved in the proactive review and oversight process of the Program's registered technician members on a FULL TIME basis.

6. Ongoing Education:

There has been no attempt by ASTTBC to investigate or adopt a program of continuing education, nor has there been any substantive effort to communicate or distribute informative, timely and educational materials to their registered FPT's. Vague references have recently been made to a requirement for documenting ongoing education, but the membership continues to be frustrated by a lack of clear direction and many feel they are *on their own*, and unsupported (literally operating in a vacuum). The single most comprehensive technical resource available to the membership has received only **two** (2) *mentions* in past, sporadically published Newsletters (both of which occurred under the auspices of the only individual that recognized the need for guidance and proper Code/Standard interpretation, and demonstrated both the courage and the willingness to explore viable alternatives in pursuit of that knowledge).

ASTTBC has **FAILED** to provide the necessary guidelines or adopt a substantive program of ongoing education and has yet to take advantage of the technology available to disseminate relevant educational and informational materials to their membership.

7. Inspection and Testing Criteria (forms and required documentation):

As of October 5th, 2015, the forms available for download from ASTTBC's Fire Protection Technician Program's website have not been materially altered, revised, or had their content corrected since 2007. The version of the Standard for Testing of Water Based Extinguishing Systems (NFPA-25) called up in the British Columbia Fire Code is "2008". The fire alarm testing form follows the correct Standard, but is presented in a format which makes documenting multiple power supplies, annunciators, and transponders utterly impossible.

One of the Program's *cornerstone* promises has been to *level the playing field*. Standardized forms are one such method, but they must be produced in a useable format, and be reviewed on a regular basis. ASTTBC has **FAILED** to do so.

8. Ongoing review of Codes, Standards, and Testing Practices:

Another *keystone* in the Program's foundation is the establishment of a *Codes and Standards Committee* in order to review the various testing requirements on a regular basis and make appropriate recommendations that will ensure technicians maintain the highest level of professional practice (reference <http://fireprotection.asttbc.org/overview.php>). Additional references, on the page, are also made to an *Association of Fire Prevention Companies*, as well as one involving *Fire Prevention Technicians*. There are no such groups in existence with but one exception and ASTTBC had no involvement in its genesis (nor does it participate in, support, or endorse its ongoing operations).

This is not simply a **FAILURE** of ASTTBC's executive team to manage the Program. It speaks to the much larger issue of their total lack of regard to the Program's central promise, *to protect the safety of the citizens of British Columbia*, by continuing to publicly disseminate false and misleading information.

9. Levelling the Playing Field for Fire Equipment Service Providers:

ASTTBC's "Professional, accountable, registered technicians" in the employ of many Lower Mainland service providers are performing substandard testing and inspection of building life safety equipment that is contrary to the British Columbia Fire Code (2012) and the various Standards it references. They are doing so at the behest of a number of employers who are engaged in a competitive frenzy for scraps and *diminished returns on investment* demanded by building owners and property managers who view aspects of life safety systems testing with the same abhorrence they would a root canal. The Codes and Standards are sacrificed on *the altar of the bottom line* and technicians willing to bend to the twisted moral code of their employers are rewarded with bonuses and incentives that further diminish the Standard of Practice and the safety of the public. They have become a part of a legion of silent, willing acolytes to greed and malfeasance. Examples of such practices include the failure to test required fire alarm system components, advancing hoses a few centimetres along their hangers to make it appear they have been removed, inspected, and re-racked, swapping tags on extinguishers in cabinets without removing them to perform the proper inspection, and worse, applying illegal hydro-static and maintenance stickers to the shells.

A *level playing field* predicated on **substandard** practice is not what the Certification Board envisioned, but is in fact, now being actively delivered in all the jurisdictions which have adopted By-Laws requiring ASTTBC technicians. Other professional associations support their members in the performance of their duties and offer proper guidance to the companies that employ them. Where is ASTTBC in all this?

ASTTBC has **FAILED** to provide the support their technician and trainee members require. Their mismanagement extends to the way they are handling complaint outcomes and censure conditions imposed by their own Practice Review Board. ASTTBC has lost all the respect of the registered technician member community.

10. Recommending Changes to the Program to Protect the Public:

The Fire Protection Certification Board and ASTTBC Council meetings are not publicly advertised, which would lead one to suspect that members of the public are not encouraged (or expected) to attend. Public (or professionally guided) input relating to recommending changes or revisions to the Program are therefore not consistent with the report filed by Mr. Carr and Mr. Coble which states that “council meetings run openly, transparently, professionally and efficiently”. In fact the *commendations* put forward by these two individuals in the face of such overwhelming **FAILURE** is a testament to the professional manner in which *smoke and mirrors* are so skillfully manipulated by ASTTBC’s executive team. When professional, unbiased members of the public can be so hypnotized by false rhetoric, what hope is there for the future of the Program?

ASTTBC, the CEO and the President all receive a **FAILING** grade.

11. Expanding the Program to Other Jurisdictions Within the Province:

ASTTBC has been very successful in promoting the Fire Protection Technician Certification Program, but many jurisdictional authorities, who are hoodwinked into recommending adoption of the Program to their local Councils, quickly become cognizant of inconsistencies and irregularities between what the Program promises, and what ASTTBC actually delivers. The increased vigilance of the local authority is due, in some small part, to the launch of new educational initiatives offered AHJ’s across Canada by both the CFAA and the FTN. Yet, despite the mountain of documentary evidence that exists to the contrary, ASTTBC’s executive team continues to promote the accountable, professional practice of their registered technician members and the *success* of the Fire Protection Technician Certification Program. ASTTBC also continues to promise education and support to their members, but have now added insult to injury by suggesting that this can only be provided through an increase in their annual practice fees. The only things that have remained a constant, in the twenty years that I have been observing the Program, are the LIES, DECEIT and FRAUD that has become its hallmark.

It would not be unreasonable for me to suggest that we are witnessing the *end game* of the Program and, given the recent *Volkswagen debacle*, I harbour grave doubts that even the most extreme measures will recover the trust of an agency responsible for the public’s safety and security in the face of such overwhelming **FAILURE**.

12. ASTTBC Technology Professionals: Value to the Public Interest – Conclusion:

It is clear that ASTTBC’s Chief Executive Officer has utter contempt for the Practice Guidelines, the Code of Ethics and Conduct, the Fire Protection Certification Program, and the public’s trust, but it is not for me to demand his immediate dismissal (I’m simply an observer and don’t maintain membership in ASTTBC).

I do urgently recommend that an independent and full review of ASTTBC’s Governance, and their executive branch’s involvement in a twenty year **FRAUD** that continues to demand annual dues from individuals that expect to participate in a professionally managed Program, the benefits of which have never been fully realized, but that remain so tantalizingly articulated on the *Who Benefits* page of Fire Protection Program’s website:

“Fire Protection Technicians

- ✚ Professional certification
- ✚ Professional development
- ✚ Professional ethics
- ✚ Career opportunities
- ✚ Enhanced personal recognition

Public

- ✚ Enhanced fire safety throughout the community

Fire Departments

- ✚ Raise the standard of inspection and testing
- ✚ Standardized inspection and testing procedures
- ✚ Provide a method of ensuring that technicians perform to an acceptable standard/Code of Ethics

Fire Protection Service Companies

- ✚ Improved standards of practice
- ✚ Create a level playing field for all companies”

-- ASTTBC Fire Protection Program website “Who Benefits” page, October 4, 2015
(<http://fireprotection.asttbc.org/whobenefits.php>)

ASTTBC cannot continue (and must not be allowed) to promote the Fire Protection Technician Certification Program in any jurisdiction within British Columbia, or elsewhere.

This Report, on the **ASTTBC FIRE PROTECTION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**, is respectfully submitted by:

Frank Kurz
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QUALIFIED. REGISTERED. ACCOUNTABLE.

Technology Professionals: Value to the Public Interest

Annual Report of the Public Representatives 2014
May 22, 2015

Serving as Public Representatives on the Council of the
Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC:

Brian Carr, PhD, BSc
James Coble, MA

Role of Public Representatives on the ASTTBC Council

Public Representatives provide professional regulatory bodies with input on decision-making and ensure a third party oversight over the work of a self-governing body such as ASTTBC.

Public Representatives are expected to:

- represent the interests of the public by raising issues related to decisions being prepared for implementation by Council that have the potential to impact the public.
- solicit appropriate stakeholders to assure adequate consultation and guidance to inform opinions and recommendations to Council.
- provide a Public Representatives Report to the BC Government, public and ASTTBC members.

Purpose of the Public Representatives Annual Report

The Annual Report focuses on ASTTBC initiatives in 2014 that serve the public interest by enhancing the professional recognition and practice rights for technologists, technicians and technical specialists registered and regulated through ASTTBC. It is an independent statement, and is presented to the ASTTBC Council without need of their approval.

The report will be forwarded to the Minister of Advanced Education, the Minister Responsible for the *ASTT Act*, all Members of the BC Legislative Assembly and the BC Members of the Parliament of Canada. It is also available to other interested stakeholders and will be posted to the ASTTBC website for public access, along with previous Annual Reports.

A condensed version will be presented at the ASTTBC Annual General Meeting on May 22, 2015. A summary will also be included in ASTTBC e-NEWS and ASTTBC Connect.

Council Governance

ASTTBC Council meetings run openly, transparently, professionally and efficiently. The Public Representatives are afforded the opportunity to fully engage and participate in providing contributions, opinions and recommendations to Council governance, and decision-making relative to issues of public interest.

Commendation: ASTTBC Council is to be commended once again for their respectful and open treatment of Public Representatives, with special thanks to ASTTBC's CEO and President.

Public Representative Perspective of Key Advancements and Challenges

This report will focus on the select items that are deemed by the Public Representatives to be of key interest to the public, and that are outlined in the ASTTBC Annual Report of 2014.

Professional Legislation and Regulation

ASTTBC has continued dialogue with APEGBC and government towards implementation of the designation of Professional Technologist (PTech), which already exists in four other provinces. The Public Representatives trust that ASTTBC will establish appropriate terms of qualification and rights to practice for this designation, and offer their support for this initiative.

APEGBC continues to express mixed reaction to this designation.

***Commendation:** The Public Representatives commend ASTTBC Council for its pursuit of the designation of Professional Technologist (PTech) in British Columbia.*

***Recommendation:** The Public Representatives recommend that ASTTBC and APEGBC continue dialogue, and ensure that the focus is on serving and protecting the public in the technology, engineering and geoscience arenas. Further, we encourage both organizations to focus on the “big picture” and establish a framework in which the public can best be protected through enhanced practice rights for all members of these teams.*

Rights to Practice

ASTTBC continues to advance Qualified Professional (QP) recognition for ASTTBC members, and being an active participant in BC government’s Professional Reliance initiative. There are a number of other initiatives involving ASTTBC that are noted in the ASTTBC Annual Report for 2014. The Public Representatives fully support these efforts of ASTTBC Council, Registrar, and CEO.

***Commendation:** The Public Representatives congratulate ASTTBC Council for its success in concluding 2014 initiatives, and offers its encouragement in seeking satisfactory conclusion for those initiatives that remain ongoing.*

***Recommendation:** The Public Representatives encourage ASTTBC Council to continue efforts of advancing Qualified Professional (QP) recognition.*

Professional Standards and Regulation

ASTTBC has continued to work with Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario towards the establishment of Technology Professional Canada (TPC). It is encouraging to be informed that this new body will roll out in 2015. The Public Representatives have expressed concern in the past regarding the present lack of a national forum where all ten provinces sit at the same table, but are pleased that contact efforts between TPC and the remaining Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT) members took place in 2014.

ASTTBC has also continued to work with the three other provinces on setting national competency standards under which TPC will certify technologists, technicians and technical specialists, and accredit post-secondary programs taught in the public and private sectors.

The Public Representatives are aware that this matter has been ongoing now for several years, and hope that a satisfactory conclusion is on the foreseeable horizon. More importantly, the Public Representatives are pleased that while this discussion has been ongoing for some time, a process of certification within British Columbia, and the mobility of ASTTBC certified workers across Canada, has continued.

The Public Representatives believe that, in the interest of public safety and protection, it is best if all provinces sit at a single table when discussing issues of national concern.

***Recommendation:** The public Representatives support ASTTBC in successfully concluding its efforts towards the formation of TPC on the understanding that:*

- *the best interests of public safety and protection continue to be paramount in the certification process of technologists, technicians and technical specialists;*
- *dialogue between ASTTBC and all provinces not involved in the creation of TPC takes place;*
- *once TPC is running, serious attempts are made for all provinces and territories to eventually be members of a single national forum;*
- *the mobility of credentials across Canada and internationally is a fundamental principle;*
- *ASTTBC continues to liaise with public and private BC post-secondary institutions offering ASTTBC-pertinent technician and technologist programs to ensure that public safety and graduate consistency is maintained, using appropriate benchmarks under which program accreditation and professional certification are measured;*
- *ASTTBC continues to manage appropriate competency benchmarks, preferably national, to certify technologists, technicians, and technical specialists, and to accredit programs offering schooling towards these careers. It is also recommended that such benchmarks be accessible free of charge to the public and private post-secondary institutions.*

Professional Recognition

ASTTBC has been active in seeking employer recognition of career opportunities under its realm, and the advantages of certification. It has also been highly proactive in marketing educational pathways, career opportunities, and rewards of such careers within the school system, to both females and males, to aboriginals and recent immigrants, to the population at large, and to government.

Commendation: The Public Representatives congratulate ASTTBC and its CEO for the energy and resources they put towards the promotion of technologist, technician and technical specialist careers.

International Recognition and Certification

ASTTBC continues to be an active participant with government and APEGBC in reviewing, and recognition of, foreign credentials with the objective of eliminating barriers, while maintaining standards of professional expectations and practice.

Commendation: The Public Representatives congratulate ASTTBC, and the work of its Registrar, in eliminating unnecessary barriers and biases towards foreign workers coming to British Columbia, while continuing to ensure public best interest, protection, and safety in granting certifications.

Other Initiatives

The Public Representatives applaud ASTTBC and its staff for all other positive accomplishments in 2014 that are too numerous to isolate in this report, and for exhibiting a determined, yet professional, demeanour throughout.

The **Annual Report of the Public Representatives 2014** is respectfully submitted by,

Brian Carr, PhD, BSc
James Coble, MA

May 22, 2015

ANNEX "B"

FIRE PROTECTION CASE SUMMARIES 2013

CASE #10-67

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT) certified in Fire Extinguishers (EX) and Unit Emergency Lighting (EM), installed a commercial kitchen exhaust system that did not comply with BC Building and Fire Code standards and ASTTBC RFPT practice guidelines including the use of stamp when tagging and reporting the work.

INVESTIGATION:

If the allegation were found to be true, the actions of the Respondent would be contrary to the ASTTBC Code of Ethics Principle 1, and the RFPT policy on the use of stamp guidelines.

The Complainant, who was also an RFPT, with certification in EX and EM had submitted and lost the bid to install the commercial kitchen exhaust system at the subject restaurant.

The investigation determined that the Respondent was not following the BC Building and BC Fire Codes. The subject restaurant is located in a municipality that does not have a bylaw requiring fire protection work to be done by ASTTBC registered technicians. However, the Respondent was an RFPT and therefore must comply with ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

In addition, the Complainant was found to have violated the Code of Ethics, by falsely representing himself as an Inspector and by trespassing onto the client's site without the owner's permission to investigate the work done by the Respondent.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that the Respondent write a letter to the ASTTBC Registrar explaining the requirements for installing fire suppression systems in commercial kitchens. The Respondent was also required to provide a letter attesting that using preprinted tags would be discontinued, that the RFPT stamp would be used only as per the Stamp and Tag guidelines and further, that the Respondent would not inspect fire protection equipment outside the scope of certification. A fine of \$500.00 was recommended as a deterrent to future violations of the BC Building and Fire Codes and ASTTBC Code of Ethics & Practice Guidelines.

The PRB also recommended that the Complainant provide a written letter of assurance, acceptable to the Registrar, promising to refrain from future misrepresentation to the public. A fine of \$500.00 was recommended as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics & Practice Guidelines.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent did not comply with the PRB censure conditions and was temporarily removed from the Register. The ASTTBC database was flagged requiring all PRB censure conditions to be fulfilled by the Respondent prior to any reinstatement. Approximately 18 months later, the Respondent complied with the PRB censure conditions and was reinstated as an RFPT.

The Complainant did not comply with the censure conditions and was subsequently struck from the registry because of non-payment of membership dues. The PRB recommended that, as the Complainant was no longer an RFPT, no further action was possible and the file was closed. The ASTTBC database was flagged requiring all PRB censure conditions to be fulfilled by the Complainant prior to any reinstatement.

Approximately 18 months later, the Complainant met with the Registrar regarding reinstatement. The discussion resulted in the Complainant realizing the poor judgment made in the past that led to the

complaint and the PRB-recommended censure conditions. The Registrar observed that the Complainant acknowledged the previous conduct that had led to a breach of the Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines and promised to abide by the ASTTBC Code of Ethics in the future. In light of this discussion, the requirement to submit a letter of assurance was waived by the Registrar. The Complainant paid the fine and all outstanding dues. In addition, the Complainant was provided the current Fire Protection Certification Policy and applicable Practice Guidelines to review and then provide a written statement, acceptable to the Registrar that the Complainant had read, understood and was up-to-date on all current standards and policies. The Complainant's written statement was to also include an assurance of compliance with all current policies and procedures of the Fire Protection Certification Board in future practice as a Fire Protection Technician. The Complainant provided the necessary documents. The PRB ratified the actions of the Registrar, and recommended that the file be closed.

CASE #11-37

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT) with certification in Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning (CO) improperly cleaned and serviced a restaurant kitchen exhaust system.

INVESTIGATION:

If the allegation were found to be true, the actions of the Respondent would be contrary to Principle 1 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The tag signed by the Respondent indicated that the hood, fan, and vents were clean, with a notation that the cleaning was "razor scraped to bare metal". Upon inspecting the rooftop vent, it was determined that the vents had not been properly cleaned. Photographs taken within a week of the tag being posted show an excessive accumulation of dirt and grease that should not be evident one week after proper cleaning of the exhaust system.

During the investigation, several errors were noted regarding the Respondent's improper use of tags and reporting. The Investigator observed that the record of test results was missing or not communicated properly.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that the Respondent provide a written letter of assurance, acceptable to the Registrar, explaining the Respondent's understanding of the proper use of Tags, Reports and Owners Log for Fire Protection Inspections and Tests. A fine of \$250.00 was recommended as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted a letter that was not acceptable to the Registrar. The Manager, Fire Protection Registrations, was requested to meet with the Respondent to address the Registrar's concerns. The Manager had a thorough discussion with the Respondent regarding the proper use of tags and the importance of preparing reports on systems only after all work had been completed. The Respondent promised to comply with the Tag and Report Guideline in the future, and also paid the fine. The Manager reported the details to the Registrar.

The PRB ratified the actions of the Registrar in substituting a discussion between the Respondent and the Manager, Fire Protection Registrations in lieu of a letter of assurance to be provided by the Respondent. Since the Respondent met the intent of the PRB censure conditions no further action was required and the case was closed.

CASE #11-79

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT) with certification in Emergency Lighting (EM), and Fire alarm systems (AL) conducted an improper verification of a fire alarm system.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principle 1 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The Investigator confirmed that the Respondent had verified the subject fire alarm system. The Respondent did not reply to the allegations in the complaint or to subsequent follow-up by ASTTBC Staff. Without a response, it was not possible for the PRB to determine if there were any reasons for not reporting or noting deficiencies in the alarm system or whether the Respondent was even aware of the applicable CAN/ULC Standards. Verification of fire alarm systems is required prior to issuing an occupancy permit following construction of new buildings, after major renovations, or for replacement of a fire alarm system.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that the Respondent write a letter of assurance promising to follow the applicable standards, practices and requirements while conducting future inspections, tests and verifications. Upon receipt of the PRB recommendations, the Respondent provided new information in response that merited further attention and was sent to the Complainant for rebuttal. The case was re-opened and the previous PRB recommendations were tabled until further investigation was completed.

The re-investigation found that there was insufficient evidence to prove that the Respondent was the only person working at the site, and that the Respondent was responsible for the errors found by the Complainant. Further, it was determined that the Complainant did not see the full Verification report and that the allegations may have been based solely on the Verification Tag.

The PRB determined that there was insufficient evidence to support the allegation that the Respondent performed the verification work. Therefore, the previous PRB recommendations were rescinded.

OUTCOME:

No further action was required and the case was closed.

CASE #11-81

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT) certified in Fire Alarm Systems (AL), Fire Extinguishers (EX), Emergency Lighting (EM), Special Fire Suppression Systems (SP) and Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (WA), incorrectly conducted and signed off on a fire alarm system verification.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principle 1 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines. At the time of the inspection, the Respondent was not ASTTBC certified in Verification of Fire Alarm Systems (VI).

The PRB investigation determined that, when the Respondent was certified by ASTTBC, the Respondent was provided with a letter outlining the requirements and limitations of practice as an RFPT with respect to certification. By conducting the verification of a fire alarm system, the Respondent breached Code of Ethics Principle 2: "Undertake and accept responsibility for professional assignments only when qualified by training and experience". Such an action was contrary to the Fire Protection Certification Policy.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that the Respondent submit a written letter of assurance, acceptable to the Registrar, that the Respondent understands the conditions and obligations of RFPTs. A fine of \$500.00 was recommended as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted a written explanation acceptable to the Registrar and paid the fine. The Respondent assured the Registrar that the necessary courses required to obtain the Verification discipline would be taken, and no fire alarm system verifications would be conducted until the required certification was achieved. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the file was closed.

CASE #12-10(2)**STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:**

That the Respondent (an RFPT) verbally threatened the Complainant (also an RFPT) over incidents of inappropriate and unprofessional business practice.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principle 7 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The Respondent was starting a new fire protection business. ASTTBC received concerns regarding unethical business practices by the Respondent while attempting to attract new clients. The Respondent and the Complainant worked in the same city and encounters between the two were inevitable. On one occasion at a local retail store the meeting resulted in the Respondent verbally threatening the Complainant. Subsequently, a complaint was submitted to ASTTBC.

In response to the complaint, the Respondent denied all allegations. The Complainant was in the presence of colleagues who witnessed the alleged threat over a cell phone with the speaker activated. Through the ASTTBC investigation signed statements were obtained from witnesses.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended censure conditions. Upon receiving the PRB conditions, the Respondent's legal counsel requested ASTTBC to provide evidence of the Respondent's violation of the Code of Ethics. The requested information was provided to the law firm. The Respondent then requested a meeting to discuss available options to resolve the complaint. The request was granted and the parties to the complaint agreed to attend separate meetings at the ASTTBC offices. As a result of the meetings, the investigation of this complaint was concluded. An offer of a Stipulated Order was made to the Respondent, which was accepted.

The conditions on the Stipulated Order were that the Respondent:

- a) Accept that there was a breach of Principle 7 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.
- b) Pay a fine of \$500.00.
- c) Submit to a Practice Assessment with the Manager, Fire Protection Registrations or designate. The practice assessment would also include a review of business practices that included document management, inspection reports and reporting.
- d) Provide to the ASTTBC Registrar proof of insurance coverage of a minimum of one million dollars for errors and omissions and public liability insurance.
- e) Clearly represent their business to clients, the public and competitors as a fire protection service company separate and independent from that of the Complainant and any other fire protection service company.

- f) Meet with the Registrar to review and agree to abide by the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines. The Complainant will be invited to attend this meeting.
- g) After carefully considering this matter, accept the above conditions and acknowledge that, in the event the above conditions are not fulfilled within the time periods specified, the RFPT's certification will be suspended and will not be reinstated until after the above conditions are successfully completed.
- h) Accept that a concealed identity summary of this Stipulated Order will be made available to the public on the website of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia as part of its duty to protect the public interest and to keep the public informed of disciplinary matters.

OUTCOME:

The Stipulated Order was ratified by the PRB, and provided to the Respondent for signature. The Respondent signed the Stipulated Order. All PRB recommended conditions were completed to the satisfaction of the PRB and the case was closed.

CASE #12-19

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, an RFPT with certification in Fire Alarm Systems (AL), Fire Extinguishers (EX), Emergency Lighting (EM), Smoke Control Systems (SM), Special Fire Suppression Systems (SP) and Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (WA), performed an incorrect verification on a fire alarm system.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principle 1 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the actions of the Respondent compromised the ULC certification as confirmed by a representative of ULC. The Respondent claimed that the actions were appropriate as a temporary fix because the fire alarm system was going to be upgraded in the near future. Although this temporary fix may not affect the operation of the fire alarm system, it was in direct violation of the CAN/ULC-S537-04 and CAN/ULC-S536-04 standards. The PRB recommended further investigation with Authorities having jurisdiction, and the re-investigation determined that the Respondent's employer had obtained the necessary permit to upgrade the fire alarm system.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that, to provide assurance of an understanding of Principle 1 of the Code of Ethics and CAN/ULC-S537-04, Verification of Fire Alarm Systems and the requirements to follow the ULC standard, the Respondent was required to submit a written statement acceptable to the Registrar, promising to abide by the Code of Ethics and the latest version of CAN/ULC-S537, Verification of Fire Alarm Systems. A fine of \$250.00 was recommended as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted the required letter, which was found to be acceptable by the Registrar, and also paid the fine. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the case was closed.

CASE #12-20

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT), certified in Fire Alarm Systems (AL), Fire Extinguishers (EX), Emergency Lighting (EM) and Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (WA), incorrectly filled out and signed off on an Inspection tag for a fire alarm system.

INVESTIGATION:

If the allegation is true, the actions of the Respondent would be contrary to Principle 1 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the actions of the Respondent compromised the ULC certification. The investigation revealed several errors regarding the Respondent's notations on the tags, which were a violation of ASTTBC's "Tags and Reports for Fire Tests and Inspection Guideline". The PRB recommended further investigation with Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and the re-investigation determined that the Respondent's employer had obtained the necessary permit to upgrade the fire alarm system.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that, to provide assurance of an understanding of the Tags and Reports for Fire Tests and Inspection Guideline and the requirements to follow CAN/ULC-S536-04, Inspection & Testing of Fire Alarm Systems, the Respondent was required to submit a written statement acceptable to the Registrar, promising to abide by the Tags and Reports for Fire Tests and Inspection Guideline and the latest version of CAN/ULC-S536, Inspection & Testing of Fire Alarm Systems in the future. A fine of \$250 was recommended as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted the required letter, which was found to be acceptable by the Registrar, and also paid the fine. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the file was closed.

CASE #12-30**STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:**

That the Respondent, an RFPT certified in Fire Alarm Systems (AL), Fire Extinguishers (EX), Emergency Lighting (EM), Special Fire Suppression Systems (SP) and Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (WA), incorrectly informed a customer about being fully manufacturer-certified to work on commercial kitchen exhaust fire suppression systems. The Respondent then proceeded to service the system and stamp a tag to certify the kitchen exhaust system was clean and fully functional.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principles 1 and 2 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the exhaust system required upgrading because new deep fryers had been installed, needing additional chemical and nozzles to meet the manufacturer's installation requirements. The ductwork required a change of nozzle as well. The Respondent inspected and tested the fire suppression system based on the documentation provided when attending the site. The Respondent did not question if there had been any changes to the system since it was initially installed and if the authority having jurisdiction had approved the changes.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that the Respondent provide a letter acceptable to the Registrar, conveying an understanding of the nature of the violation. The PRB also levied a fine of \$250.00, as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics & Practice Guidelines.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent paid the fine and submitted the required letter, which was found to be acceptable by the Registrar. The Respondent also conveyed that one of the lessons learnt from this experience was that in the future, one of the first questions to ask a customer is if there had been any changes to the system since

original installation. The Registrar was also advised that the Respondent would be taking a manufacturer's course in the future. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the file was closed.

CASE #12-34

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT), certified in Fire Alarm Systems (AL), Fire Extinguishers (EX), Emergency Lighting (EM), Smoke Control Systems (SM), Special Fire Suppression Systems (SP) and Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (WA), was servicing special fire suppression systems when not certified by the manufacturer to do so and therefore did not have access to UL/ULC listed replacement parts.

INVESTIGATION:

The Complainant expressed concern that the Respondent did not have access to manufacturer certified replacement parts required to service the fire suppression system. The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principles 1 and 2 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the Respondent, when servicing fire suppression systems, obtained UL/ULC listed parts online using eBay and therefore accessible to the public. The investigation determined that manufacturer certification for fire suppression systems covered design, installation, operation and maintenance, but did not make any reference to inspection and testing. In the case of this complaint, the Respondent was doing the annual inspection and testing.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that, while there was insufficient evidence to substantiate a violation of the Code of Ethics or Standards of Practice, the Respondent was required to submit a written statement acceptable to the Registrar, confirming that, when conducting the annual inspection, testing and maintenance on special fire suppression systems any replacement parts used will be ULC-listed for that system.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted the required letter, which was acceptable to the Registrar. The letter assured that when conducting special fire suppression systems inspections (semi-annual and annual), the Respondent has been and will continue to use ULC-listed replacement parts. These parts included fusible links, CO₂ cartridges, nozzle seals and caps. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the file was closed.

CASE #12-36

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT) certified in Fire Extinguishers (EX) and Unit Emergency Lighting (EM) entered a business and was inappropriately soliciting work while the Complainant, also an RFPT, was on the premises doing the annual inspection, testing and servicing of the Emergency Lighting units.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principles 3, 4 and 7 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the Respondent informed the customer that the Complainant was unnecessarily replacing the lighting unit battery, and also spoke to the business owner in a language other than English, advising them that the Respondent could do the job cheaper than the Complainant. The investigation confirmed the Respondent's presence at the business on the date and time of the incident. It

was also confirmed that the Respondent did speak with the owner in another language about cheaper rates and that the emergency lighting unit battery did not need to be replaced.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that the Respondent provide a written statement acceptable to the Registrar, promising to abide by the Code of Ethics in the future, and also levied a fine of \$250.00, as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics & Practice Guidelines. Upon receipt of the PRB recommendations, the Respondent provided further information, based on which, a re-investigation was recommended by the PRB and the previous recommendations were tabled.

The re-investigation determined that the Respondent's actions in providing the additional information to the PRB were done in an attempt to alter the outcome of the investigation. The PRB concluded that multiple violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics had occurred and therefore, the complaint that professional misconduct occurred was further substantiated.

The PRB recommended that the previous censure conditions specified remain in effect. In addition, the PRB recommended that whereas the Respondent's actions were not conducted with integrity, fairness, honesty, courtesy and good faith towards the client, the Respondent was in violation of ASTTBC Code of Ethics principles 3, 4 and 7; therefore, the Respondent was levied an additional fine of \$500.00, with the total fine being \$750.00.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted the required statement, which was found to be acceptable, providing assurance that the Respondent would follow the guidelines set by ASTTBC in the future.

With respect to the fine of \$750.00, on the Respondent's request, ASTTBC agreed to payments in 4 equal monthly installments.

Since the Respondent had agreed to comply with the PRB recommendations, no further action was required and the file was closed.

CASE #13-11

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:

That the Respondent, a RFPT Trainee in Fire Extinguishers (EX) performed an annual inspection and testing of a Fire Alarm system, without being certified to do so.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principle 2 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the Respondent performed the inspection along with another individual who was not certified by ASTTBC. In addition, the system panel was tagged by a third individual, who was an RFPT. The PRB investigation determined that the allegations were valid and that the Respondent was in violation of the Trainee Practice Guidelines, and the Tag, Reports and Owners Log for Fire Tests and Inspections Guidelines.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that the Respondent provide written assurance of understanding of the proper application of the guidelines for Tags, Reports and Owner's Log for Fire Tests and Inspections. The Respondent was also required to submit a written statement acceptable to the Registrar promising to abide by the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Fire Protection Certification Policy in the future. In addition, the PRB levied a fine of \$250.00, as a deterrent to future violations of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics & Practice Guidelines.

OUTCOME:

Rather than comply with the recommendations, the Respondent chose to cancel membership with ASTTBC and returned the RFPT stamp.

The PRB recommended that, as the Respondent was no longer a member of ASTTBC, no further action was possible at the time, and the file was closed. The ASTTBC database was flagged and if the Respondent applies for certification, this file will be reopened and all PRB recommendations successfully completed prior to reinstatement. Further, all applicable Fire Protection Certification Board policies and guidelines will be considered and applied at the time of reinstatement.

CASE #13-12**STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:**

That the Respondent, an RFPT certified in Fire Alarm Systems (AL), Fire Extinguishers (EX), Emergency Lighting (EM) and Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (WA), was the lead technician at a job site for an annual inspection on a Fire Alarm system. Two individuals, one a RFPT and the other a RFPT Trainee were also present at the site; however, the Respondent did not properly follow ASTTBC Trainee Practice Guidelines, and the Tag, Reports and Owners Log for Fire Tests and Inspections Guidelines.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principle 2 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the Respondent's reporting did not follow the prescribed guidelines. Although the Respondent's name appeared on the tag applied to the system, it did not appear on any of the test reports. In addition, the Respondent was also found to have not followed the Trainee Practice Guideline.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB upheld the allegations made by the Complainant. The PRB required the Respondent to submit a written statement, acceptable to the Registrar, promising to abide by Code of Ethics, the Trainee Practice Guidelines, and the Tag, Reports and Owners Log for Fire Tests in the future. In addition, the PRB levied a fine of \$500.00, as a deterrent to future violations of the Code of Ethics and also given the higher level of accountability as a supervisor.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted the required letter, outlining an understanding of the prescribed documentation and providing assurance of abiding by these documents, and also paid the fine. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the file was closed.

CASE #13-13**STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:**

That the Respondent, an applicant for the ASTTBC Fire Protection Registration program, performed an annual inspection on a Fire Alarm system, without being certified to do so.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principles 1 and 2 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the Respondent inspected and tested a fire alarm without following correct procedures and without supervision, and was therefore, in violation of the Stamp and Tag Guideline and the Trainee Practice Guideline.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that as the Respondent was not a member of ASTTBC, this file be closed with respect to practice as a Fire Protection Technician. However, since the Respondent was an applicant to ASTTBC Fire Protection Registration program, the PRB required the Respondent read and comply with the Fire Protection Technician Stamp and Practice Guideline, and the Trainee Guideline. The Respondent was required to submit to the Registrar, in writing, an acceptable explanation of an understanding of these guidelines. This statement was to be received prior to the Respondent being given any consideration for certification in the future.

OUTCOME:

The Respondent submitted a very detailed letter to the Registrar, outlining an understanding of the Fire Protection Technician Stamp Practice Guideline, the guideline on Tags and Reports for Fire Tests and Inspections and the Trainee Guideline, which was found to be acceptable. Since all recommendations were successfully completed, no further action was necessary and the file was closed. The Fire Protection Certification Board was advised accordingly.

CASE #13-24**STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:**

That the Respondent, previously registered with ASTTBC as an RFPT certified in Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning (CO), conducted vent cleaning after the ASTTBC membership had been cancelled because of non-payment of annual dues.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principles 1 and 2 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that, at the time of the cleaning, the Respondent had been struck from the ASTTBC registry for non-payment of dues. The Respondent did not reply to the notice of complaint. In a follow-up with the Respondent's employer, ASTTBC learned that the Respondent had resigned from the BC employer and moved to another Province.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB recommended that as the Respondent is no longer a RFPT, the database be flagged and if the Respondent applies for reinstatement, that the file be reopened and concluded to the satisfaction of the PRB. In addition, prior to reinstatement, the Respondent shall, in writing, satisfy the Registrar that the Respondent understands the Fire Protection Technician Stamp Practice Guideline and, assures the Registrar that practice as a RFPT will not be undertaken unless the Respondent is a member in good standing with ASTTBC. Further, the PRB required that the Registrar notify the Authorities having jurisdiction in each municipality with a bylaw requiring ASTTBC certification for Fire Protection Technicians, that the Respondent is no longer registered with ASTTBC as an RFPT.

OUTCOME:

No further action was taken at the time and the file was closed. The ASTTBC member database has been flagged to alert Staff of the outstanding PRB conditions should the former RFPT apply for reinstatement.

CASE #13-25**STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT:**

That the Respondent, an RFPT certified in Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning (CO), and owner of a fire protection business, assigned a non-registered employee to conduct commercial kitchen exhaust cleaning.

INVESTIGATION:

The above allegation, if found to be true, would be contrary to Principles 1 and 2 of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Guidelines.

The PRB investigation determined that the Respondent's employee was previously registered with ASTTBC as an RFPT but had been struck from the registry for non-payment of annual dues. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Respondent directed the employee to pay the required dues and get reinstated. Further, the Respondent advised ASTTBC that, as 5 of the employees were RFPTs, a revision to staff protocol was implemented, wherein all employees who are RFPTs are required to furnish their receipt for payment of annual dues to ASTTBC as proof that they are in good standing with ASTTBC.

PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

The PRB concluded that the Respondent had carried out the necessary due diligence in ensuring that the company employees who were RFPTs were in good standing prior to conducting any RFPT-related duties.

OUTCOME:

The PRB recommended no further action was required and the file was closed.