

# Suppress!

PREVENTING FIRES... SAVING LIVES!  
...official newsletter for Fire Protection Technicians in British Columbia

## Fire Protection Technician Certification Program 2006

### Fire Protection Certification Program Goal

To ensure public health and safety by requiring fire protection technicians to be professionally qualified to inspect, test and maintain fire protection systems.

### ASTTBC Certifies 1000th Fire Protection Technician

Congratulations to Richard Maranda for receiving the certification number FP1000. Richard's certification was approved at the June 2006 Fire Protection Certification Board meeting.

### Fire Alarm Inspection and Testing Annual Test Procedures in conformance with CAN/ULC S536

This document has been transcribed for convenience; for accurate information please contact Vancouver and Rescue Services.

### City of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services – Fire Prevention Division

**Bulletin 2006-001-F1 May 12, 2006**

This Bulletin clarifies the provision of ULC S536 with respect to the use of a Resetting Device or 'Black Box' during the Inspection and Testing of a Fire Alarm System.

In accordance with an interpretation obtained from ULC, under ULC Certificate Service for Fire Alarm Systems, resetting devices or 'black boxes' shall not be used for testing Fire Alarm System components. These resetting devices are frequently used to remotely test fire alarm components (smoke or heat detectors, pull stations) without manually resetting the Fire Alarm System control unit. As these

resetting devices are intended for convenient purpose in lieu of a second technician on site during the annual testing of a Fire Alarm System, such use of these devices is not acceptable for the purpose of conformance to CAN/ULC S536. The audible signal devices may not sound on actuation of the fire alarm initiating device and therefore confirmation of the fact that a fire alarm initiating device is activated cannot be accurately verified.

All fire alarm systems are required to be tested annually in conformance with CAN/ULC S536 as mandated in the Vancouver Fire By-law.

Section 5 of the CAN/ULC S536 (Clause 5.1 Documentation) states that all inspections and tests required by this Standard shall be documented in a report similar to Appendix E.

Appendix 'E', part 'E 3.2', Individual Device Record, shows several columns that must be filled out and they are as follows:

- Alarm Confirmation Confirmed
- Alarm Annunciation Confirmed
- Zone Circuit Number or Address

The above noted items can only be confirmed at the fire control unit or the annunciator. If the technician using a resetting device does not return to the panel for confirmation of each device tested the annual test is not considered as being performed in accordance with CAN/ULC S536, as the technician is only assuming that actuation of the device is properly annunciated at the panel and properly zoned.

**Les Sziklai**, Deputy Chief Fire Prevention  
604-873-7562

## Fall 2006

Issue No. 09

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## Surrey adopts Fire Bylaw

**Amendment** on October 30/06 to require ASTTBC certified Technicians for the inspection, testing and maintenance of Fire Protection Systems in designated occupancies effective January 1, 2007. See insert for full bylaw amendment. For further information please contact Deputy Chief Gord Anderson 604-543-6707 or [GAAnderson@surrey.ca](mailto:GAAnderson@surrey.ca)

## Whistler Fire Rescue Adopts Certification Bylaw

**Please note a change in the implementation date of this bylaw. The date for implementation will be Jan 1, 2007 and not June 1, 2006 as previously stated.**

For further information please contact Assistant Chief Sheila Kirkwood at [skirkwood@whistler.ca](mailto:skirkwood@whistler.ca) or Toll Free: (866) 932-5535, 8264

## Abbotsford Fire Rescue Adopts Certification Bylaw

Abbotsford has adopted the bylaw effective March 06 and requires technicians to be ASTTBC certified. For further information contact:

### Mike Helmer

Assistant Fire Chief – Fire Prevention  
Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service  
32270 George Ferguson Way  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 2L1  
Phone (604) 853-3566  
Fax 604-853-7941

## Kitchen Fire Suppression Systems

### To all Technicians

#### Important Notice – Recommended Practice UL 300 & ULC 1254.6 Standards

N.F.P.A. #96 - Kitchen Dry Chemical Fire Protection Systems

On March 17, 1998, the Office of the Fire Commissioner issued Interpretation Bulletin IB 014, which required fire extinguishing systems for commercial cooking equipment to be upgraded to meet UL 300 - ULC 1254.6 Standards as of December 31, 2000.

The Fire Commissioner has now advised the local Authority Having Jurisdiction, that it is their responsibility to implement the upgrade.

Many of these systems have not been upgraded and are in contravention of the Fire Commissioner's Bulletin.

These systems are still functioning and must be maintained in accordance with the required standards. All deficiencies with these non-compliant systems are required to be corrected.

You should contact the Local Authority Having Jurisdiction for information regarding the status of the implementation of the upgrading for these systems.

The Fire Code specifies that owners are responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Code, which includes required safety upgrading.

The tag shall have an 'X' placed through the front as shown, this is to highlight that the system is non-compliant.

### Labeling of Upgraded Systems:

Extinguishing systems that have been upgraded to meet the new UL300 - ULC/1254.6 Standards must be labeled for inspection by local fire authorities. Fire protection service companies performing upgrades of existing systems shall provide labels that meet the following criteria:

- Labels shall certify that the system has been upgraded to the appropriate standard.
- Labels are only to be installed by fire protection technicians qualified to perform the necessary system upgrade.
- Labels shall be affixed to the front of extinguishing cylinders in a location readily identifiable to local fire authorities.

- Labels must be made of permanent material that self destructs if removed from the cylinder.
- Labels shall include the following information
  - UL/ULC Identification Number for the System
  - Month and Year of Upgrade
  - Name of Company and Phone Number 3

This is a summary of the Interpretation Bulletins; for exact documentation visit the following web site: <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/firecode/ib015.htm>

Interpretation Bulletins are published by the Office of the Fire Commissioner in order to provide direction for the application and interpretation of the Fire Services Act and pursuant regulations. Where applicable, the Fire Commissioner will issue accompanying approval or interpretative Orders, under the authority of Part 1 of the BC Fire Code.

For further information contact: Office of the Fire Commissioner, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, PO Box 9491 Stn Prov Govt, 1st Floor - 800 Johnson Street, Victoria BC V8W 9N7. Telephone (250) 356-9000, Facsimile (250) 356-9019

e-mail: [OFC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:OFC@gov.bc.ca)

Internet: <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom>

### Public Safety

The Fire Protection Certification Program was instituted in 1996. Since that time, there have been numerous complaints against Technicians doing inferior fire protection and testing and not abiding by the code of ethics. The work that is conducted by Fire Protection Technicians involves the life safety of the public. You are charged with doing this work in an ethical, comprehensive and professional manner in accordance with the minimum standards of the fire code. Anything less is unacceptable. ASTTBC is taking these complaints very seriously and will be disciplining those Technicians that put the safety of the public in jeopardy.

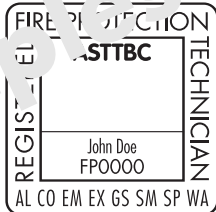
### Full Certification

PROFESSIONAL TITLE – Fire Protection Technicians that have met the minimum academic requirements and experience will be granted the title 'Registered Fire Protection Technician', and will be allowed to use the designation 'RFPT' after

*cont'd on page 3...*

**Full Certification...** *cont'd from page 2*

their names. The title and designation are federally protected trademarks reserved for use by Technicians who are currently registered with ASTTBC. Technicians who are NOT currently registered may NOT use the title or designation.



**TECHNICIAN STAMP** – All Registered Fire Protection Technicians in the Lower Mainland area and all 'Interim' certified Technicians in other areas of BC are required to use the stamp. The stamp will identify the disciplines for which the technician has certification. The disciplines are noted at the bottom of the stamp, and will include one or more of the following, depending on disciplines in which the Technician is registered:

- AL** (Fire Alarms Systems)
- CO** (Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning)
- Ex** (Fire Extinguishers)
- Em** (Unit Emergency Lighting)
- GS** (Generator Systems)
- SM** (Smoke Control Systems)
- SP** (Special Fire Suppression Systems)
- WA** (Water-Based Fire Protection Systems)

MANY MUNICIPALITIES HAVE ENACTED A BYLAW requiring ASTTBC registration to conduct fire protection inspection and testing services. Even though many municipalities have not as yet introduced a Bylaw to require ASTTBC registration, ASTTBC – certified fire protection technicians are found in many areas of the province as the technicians and/or their employers believe professional certification adds credibility to their services. Simply stated, they have a marketing edge.

ASTTBC encourages you to promote your professional certification in those areas that are not covered by a Bylaw.

Municipalities that have enacted a Municipal Bylaw and joined the Fire Protection Certification Program:

- Abbotsford
- Chilliwack
- City of North Vancouver
- Courtenay
- District of North Vancouver
- Richmond

- Sechelt
- Squamish
- Surrey (implementing Jan 2007)
- Vancouver
- Whistler (implementing Jan 2007)

An update on the technicians that are certified by ASTTBC are as follows.

**As of September, 2006**

Discipline	Full	Trainee	Interim
Fire Alarms	280	53	24
Fire Extinguishers	358	27	17
Unit Emergency Lighting	282	70	24
Generator Systems	40	19	4
Smoke Control	35	75	6
Water Based	226	40	12
Kitchen Cleaning	40	12	1
Special Systems	97	36	7

USING YOUR STAMP IN MUNICIPALITIES WITHOUT A BYLAW. Getting registered with ASTTBC is an important step in your recognition as a professional. You are obliged to use your stamp in ALL municipalities regardless of whether or not they have a Bylaw. This policy is required for several reasons: it demonstrates your registration with ASTTBC; it assures the client and public that a professionally-registered technician has done the work; it gives you a marketing edge over those who are not registered; and, helps to promote ASTTBC registration within municipalities that do not as yet have a Bylaw in place.

**BC Housing requires ASTTBC Technicians**

Since 1997, B.C. Housings' General Requirements, Summary of Work, article 1.15.2, specify Contractor Qualifications. It states: "Contractor" shall use technicians holding current certification by Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC. Also the reporting requirements (testing confirmation) specify that they use the standardized ASTTBC forms.

For further information please contact...

**Steven Bibby**, CPM  
 Manager of Safety & Security, BC Housing  
 Direct Line: 604-439-4706  
 Fax: 604-439-4722  
 Toll Free: 1-800-257-7756, local 4706  
 Email: [sbibby@bchousing.org](mailto:sbibby@bchousing.org)



**Use of Fire Protection Technician Stamp.**

It has been alleged that there are ASTTBC Registered Fire Protection Technicians who are both pre-stamping tags and indiscriminately allowing other persons to use those tags on fire protection equipment. Another alleged example is where only one individual in a company is an 'RFPT' and that Technician allows other employees to use their stamp. These matters are currently under investigation by the ASTTBC Practice Review Board.

This type of practice is completely unacceptable and falls under the jurisdiction of the ASTTBC Practice Review Board. Such misuse of a stamp would be grounds for cancellation of the Technician's certification and other penalties.

Registered  
Fire Protection Technician

Qualified.  
Registered.  
Accountable.

Protecting the  
Public Interest

**Suppress!**

## Fire Protection Certification Board

<b>Stuart Affleck</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Larry Barker, RFPT</b>	Manager, Fire Protection Registration
<b>Robert Barrett, RFPT</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Rick Critchlow</b>	City of Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services
<b>Derek Dickson, RFPT</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Kevin Gray, RFPT</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Dale Maranda, RFPT, Chair</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Wayne McLeod</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Paul Morrison</b>	BCIT
<b>Dave Newton</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Brian Stegavig</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Costa Vlachias, ASCT, RFPT</b>	Industry Representative
<b>Stephen Watt</b>	Office of the Fire Commissioner, Codes and Standards Coordinator
<b>Marv Woolley, ASCT</b>	BCIT

**Complaint submissions must be in writing and addressed to the ASTTBC Registrar (Staff members dealing with certification issues do not handle complaints). The Registrar acts as Secretary to the Practice Review Board (PRB) who under the ASTT Act has responsibility for the review of registrants' conduct. Staff cannot accept verbal complaints.**

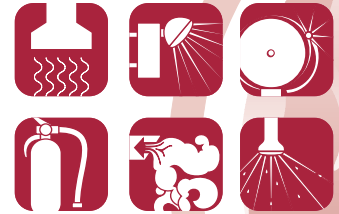
**Complainants should be aware that a false or malicious complaint may result in legal action by other parties.**

### COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:

1. Fully document details of the alleged incident.
2. Must include full name and FP number of the technician (s) in question. ASTTBC can only act against registered members.
3. Must include name of business, contact person and phone number at the location where the alleged incident took place
4. Must include a detailed written description of the actual complaint.
5. Must include substantiated photocopy evidence of reports and tags, including photos if possible.
6. The complaint must be verified by an ASTTBC representative or the local fire department.
7. ASTTBC may call the complainant to discuss the issue and to ensure that there is proper information and evidence of an actual violation of the ASTTBC Code of Ethics and Practice Standards.
8. Providing there is reasonably substantiated information and evidence, a copy of the complaint will be forwarded to all parties involved for their comments.
9. Once ASTTBC has received comments from all parties, the Practice Review Board will review the complaint and make a recommendation. If necessary a Disciplinary Hearing will be held under the ASTT Act.

The Code of Ethics is for everyone and it can only work if information regarding unethical practices is reported to the ASTTBC Practice Review Board. This requires the combined efforts of Technicians and Fire Departments. It is through your vigilance and the powers of the PRB that violators can be held accountable.

**For Information...** For further information about the Fire Protection Certification Program or if you would like assistance implementing the program in your community please contact **Larry Barker** at 604-585-2788 or email **lbarker@bsc-link.com**



### Beware... Be Alert!!! Duplicate Technicians Stamps.

**We have discovered that there is a stamp being used on inspection reports that is a fake. The stamp has no name or FP number and a scribble where the technician is required to sign. If you come across this type of stamp please notify the AHJ and ASTTBC immediately.**

**Any unauthorized reproduction or production of an ASTTBC RFPT stamp is a matter for both civil and criminal proceedings, as well as action by the Practice Review Board.**

**Technicians are encouraged to bring forward written complaints of breaches of these requirements and will be supported by ASTTBC in this matter; where necessary confidentiality will be maintained.**

Do your part and...  
**Suppress!**