Certification Matters

Advancing the professionalism of the industry is a key objective of DASMA, IDA, and AFA. Door + Access Systems magazine will be featuring information about accreditation, certification, and education opportunities in this new, regular section, which will recognize the professionals and companies who have most recently been certified or accredited.

What is Certification?

There are two broad types of certifications: personnel certification and product certification. The former is a process that verifies the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities of individuals relative to a particular task or job. The latter verifies performance claims or attributes relative to a specific product. This article is the first in a regular series that will address certification and education in the door and access systems industry, focusing on personnel certification in general.

Accreditation versus certification

Accreditation is a process that normally applies to businesses, organizations, or programs. Accreditation is intended to verify adherence to defined procedures, standards, or best practices through an initial review and recurring subsequent audits.
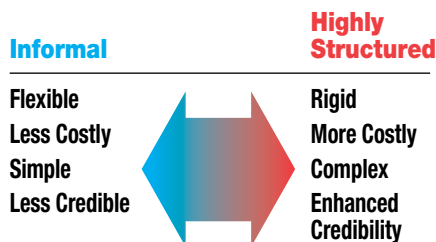
Certification is not training, and vice versa. The concepts are often incorrectly conflated. It is possible that some type of training could be a prerequisite to becoming certified; however, certification itself involves an assessment that verifies an individual's competence: the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities they possess.

Many programs establish some prerequisites in order for individuals to be eligible to even take a certification exam. Common prerequisites include attendance at a training program, attainment of a level of experience (for example, a certain number of years in a position or industry), a degree from an educational body, etc.

Informal versus structured programs

Certification programs take many forms and exist on a continuum, with relatively informal programs which maintain a great deal of flexibility on one end of the scale and highly structured programs bound by strict procedures on the other. Informal programs are often less costly to administer and maintain while highly structured programs are relatively more complex and costly.

Informal	Highly Structured
Flexible	Rigid
Less Costly	More Costly
Simple	Complex
Less Credible	Enhanced Credibility

There are even accreditation programs intended for certification programs. These accreditation activities apply most often to the highly structured programs. The accreditation assesses adherence to a standard or codified set of best practices for certification programs.

Accredited programs and the role of ANSI

In general, there are several different standards and sets of best practices for personnel certification programs, and there are several accrediting bodies that administer these activities. Perhaps the best-known standard is ISO 17024, Conformity Assessment, General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons.

In the United States, ANSI is the accrediting body for the ISO 17024 standard. In addition to the role of ANSI in providing a framework for recognition of standards, the organization is also deeply invested in accreditation of personnel certification programs.

Most personnel certification programs arise through the activity of trade associations or similar membership organizations. There are some programs, particularly in the IT world, that focus on mastery of a particular company's equipment or software. For example, programs exist for Microsoft software/cloud services or Cisco networking equipment. However, most programs are product or provider neutral.

IDEA Certification

IDEA has a total of 4,164 certified technicians, accredited dealers, and sanctioned trainers. The organization has certified 154 technicians in the past three months and a total of 225 in 2021. 370 technicians were certified in 2020.

ACI Certification

Since its inception in March 2021, ACI has awarded the Gate Automation Designer Certification to 85 techs and the Gate Automation Technician Certification to 40 techs for a total of 125.

Purposes and benefits of certification programs

Organizations would not expend the time, effort, and financial resources to develop certification programs unless such programs served a purpose. Certificants and potential certificants would not bother with training programs, study preparation, exams, and similar activities unless they derived some benefit from being certified. Here are some common benefits of certification:

- **Certified individuals**
  - Differentiate themselves from their peers who lack the credential.
  - Demonstrate possession of certain knowledge, skills, and abilities.
  - Signal to employers their dedication to a field or career.
  - Advance careers by learning and demonstrating mastery of new knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- **Employers**
  - Determine capability of staff or potential staff.
  - Demonstrate qualifications of staff to outside bodies.
  - Help ensure quality product or quality installation and service, also potentially limiting liability or assisting in managing risk of liability.
  - Assist in determining compensation.

We all know individuals who embellish their skills or knowledge in the shop, online, or at the office, but in reality lack the skills necessary to perform competently. A well-designed, effective certification program helps an industry by facilitating communication among peers in the industry, between individuals and employers, and between industry participants and outside bodies such as customers, regulators, code officials, etc.

Many certification options for our industry

Participants in the door and access systems industry are fortunate that they have many certification options. There are two organizations that offer accreditation and certification opportunities for professionals in our industry: the Institute of Door Dealer Education and Accreditation (IDEA) www.dooreducation.com and the Accreditation and Certification Institute (ACI) www.acieducation.org. Both are independent, non-profit organizations that provide programs for companies and individuals engaged in the sale, installation, and service of industry-related products.

In our next article in this series, we will explore both these organizations and the programs they offer. We will also use this platform to recognize the IDEA and ACI certifications awarded so far and going forward.

ACI Gate Automation Designer Certification (by individual)

The following individuals received their Gate Automation Designer Certification between March 2020 and July 2021.

Certificant Name

Paul Abel
Rafael Amezcua
Daniel Andermann
Brandon Atkinson
Scott Bagwell
John Barnes
Philip Beghtel
Selena Belvin
Wes Benninger
Daniel Boek
Brandon Bossolono
Paul Bowen
Stephen Boyler
Alain Brûlé
Jeremy Brummels
Chris Bujold
Shawn Caperton
Matthew Cassada
Cameron Crawford
Rob Cunningham
Jason Daniels
Joshua Daniels
Adam Davis
Dillon Dempsey
Joe Dodson
Walter Donnell
Frank Donth
Nathaniel Downs
Zach Eichenberger
Chris Feroben
Tony Fournier
Rory Gardner
Casey Gedeiko
Jesse Gedeiko
Michael Gedeiko
Joseph Gedeiko Sr.
Joshua Glover
Logan Griffith
Erik Gutierrez
Danielle Gutzke
Bryan Hill
Thomas Johnson
David Kassel
Shaun Keeney
James King
John Koller
Ben Koziolek
Jonathan Krause
Josh Lackey
Derek Leen
Joseph Lemke
Gary Locke
Kendal Mast
Scott Meckes
Joe Meyers
Chris Mishuk
Jeremy Moore

Michael Namsick
Taylor O'Hornsby
Mark Olson
Erik Ortiz
Shawn Owsley
Anthony Pack
Douglas Palenchar
Trey Raiford
Marc Retterath
Zachary Revis
Nick Rike
Tabatha Rutledge
Justin Sims
Sean Sonderman
Ben Stalvey
Brandon Starr
Chris Steele
Chris Steilen
Trevor Sullivan
Jared Sypnieski
Dustin Taylor
Adam Verville
Kenneth Ward
Randy Ward
Mark Wassink
Joel Watts
Brian Welch
Barry Wilson

ACI Gate Automation Designer Accreditation (by company)

The following companies received ACI Gate Automation Designer Accreditation between March 2020 and July 2021.

Accredited Company Name
A Access Automation and Gate
Action Fence
All Access Gates
All-Rite Fence Company
American Overhead Door
Atlanta Entry Systems
Atlantic Industrial Fence
Authority Fence & Deck
B & W Fence
Barnum Companies
Boyler's Ornamental Iron
Budget Fence and Gate
Claremore's Fence
Controlled Products Systems Group — Ga.
Controlled Products Systems Group — Garfield Heights, Ohio
Controlled Products Systems Group — Pleasanton, Calif.
Controlled Products Systems Group — Tampa, Fla.
Crusader Fence Co.
Dakota Fence
Dillard Door & Security
DoorKing
EC Fence and Iron Works
Empire Fence
Empire Netting & Fence
England Fence
Falls City Fence

FenceMart
Fencing Specialists
Frederick Fence Company
GMH Fence Co.
GTZ Fencing
High Steele Fencing
HySecurity
Integrous
Master Halco — Orlando, Fla.
Master Halco — Stockbridge, Ga.
Master Halco — Tampa, Fla.
MN Fence Supply
Mr. Fence of Florida
Northwest Barriers
Outback Fence Co.
Pack Haus Fence Company
Power Gate Opener Systems
Prairie Creek Fence
Premier Fence
PSX
Quality Gates and Openers
Securetech Fence Systems
Seegars Fence Company of Durham
Seegars Fence Company of Greenville
Sims Fence Company
Sloan Security Group
Southwest Automated Security — Baton Rouge, La.
Southwest Automated Security — Boynton Beach, Fla.
Stockton Fence & Material
Superior Fence & Rail of Fort Myers
Superior Fence & Rail of Pensacola
SWI
Swiss Valley Fence
Top Quality Doors
Town & Country Fence
Twin City Gate
Western Access Controls
WMS Automatic Gates
Yaboo Fence Co.

ACI Gate Automation Technician Certification (by individual)

The following individuals received their Gate Automation Technician Certification between March 2020 and July 2021.

Certificant Name
Scott Bagwell
Philip Beghtel
Michael Bistodeau
Aaron Bonaime
Alain Brûlé
Jeremy Brummels
Matthew Cassada
Keaton Craig
Cam Dunham
Zach Eichenberger
Chris Feroben
Casey Gedeiko
Jesse Gedeiko

Michael Gedeiko
Joshua Glover
Patrick Grogan
Bryan Hill
Brad Kargus
Ben Koziolek
Jonathan Krause
Matt Kuehlhorn
Jake Larson
Nick Larson
Joseph Lemke
Scott Meckes
Chris Mishuk
James Mullen
Mike Myers
Kevin Nickell
Jeremy Nordberg
Keith Pace
Mostafa Rasheed
Marc Retterath
Nick Rike
Justin Sims
Sean Sonderman
Scott Sypnieski
Mark Wassink

ACI Gate Automation Technician Accreditation (by company)

The following companies received Gate Automation Technician Accreditation between March 2020 and July 2021.

Accredited Company Name
Access Control Solutions
Action Fence
All Access Gates
All-Rite Fence Company
Apex Fence
Authority Fence & Deck
Bill's Fence Co.
Controlled Products Systems Group — Pleasanton, Calif.
Dakota Fence
DoorKing
Empire Fence
Fencetastic
Gateworks
HySecurity
Keller Fence Company North
Kooler Homes
Master Halco — Orlando, Fla.
Master Halco — Stockbridge, Ga.
Master Halco — Tampa, Fla.
Mr. Fence of Florida
Power Gate Opener Systems
Prairie Creek Fence
Sims Fence Company
Sloan Security Group
Stockton Fence & Material
Texarkana Fence & Access Control
Town & Country Fence
Twin City Gate
Western Access Controls
Yaboo Fence Co. ∎