Certification Matters

INSTITUTE OF DOOR DEALER
IDEA
EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION

IDEA has a total of 4,482 total certified technicians, accredited dealers, and sanctioned trainers, with 445 certified in 2021.

ACI
Accreditation & Certification Institute

ACI has a total of 143 certified technicians, with 96 Gate Automation Designer and 47 Gate Automation Technicians certifications awarded in 2021.

Certifications in the door and access systems industry

Part 2 ▶ Overview of IDEA and ACI

The door and access systems industry has recognized the benefits of certification and accreditation programs for decades. The industry is fortunate to have two certification bodies that provide programs for industry participants: the Institute of Door Dealer Education and Accreditation (IDEA) and Accreditation Certification Institute (ACI).

Both are independent and non-profit organizations that provide programs for companies and individuals involved in the sale, installation, and service of industry-related products.

Generally, IDEA and ACI address different audiences; however, there are some overlaps in the area of automated gate systems. DASMA is involved with both ACI and IDEA and supports the missions and activities of both organizations.

About IDEA

IDEA was the first of the two organizations to be established, formed in 1996 through the collaborative efforts of DASMA and IDA. These sponsoring organizations recognized a need for more focused education of industry professionals as well as a means of verifying the knowledge, skills, and abilities of those professionals, and thus supported the development of the certification programs.

DASMA and IDA provided seed money over a period of several years, and they continue to support IDEA today in a variety of ways. They also regularly appoint representatives to serve on the IDEA board of directors, with both associations having equal representation on the board.

IDEA provides educational programs, certification programs, and training materials, in the form of study guides. All of the programs and materials provided by IDEA are related to the door and access systems industry. The following certification or accreditation programs are offered through IDEA:
- Automated Gate Systems Designer
- Automated Gate Operator Installer
- Certified Door Dealer Consultant
- Commercial Rolling Door Systems Technician
- Commercial Sectional Door Systems Technician
- Door Dealer Accreditation Residential Installer
- Rolling Steel Fire Door Technician

IDEA testing dates are scheduled throughout the year and during the IDAExpo 2022 event on Tuesday, April 5, and Wednesday, April 6. For more information about IDEA and future exam dates, visit www.dooreducation.com.

About ACI

ACI is a relatively new certification body, formed in 2019. ACI provides certification and accreditation programs for the fence, gate, active vehicular access barrier, access control, deck, and rail industries.

ACI's supporting organizational members, AFA, DASMA, NOMMA, and the Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute (CLFMI) each appoint one representative to the board of directors that governs the organization.

AFA provided seed money for ACI during its formative stage, and the other organizational members provide additional support, including industry expertise and oversight.

ACI currently provides the following programs:
- Certified Fence Contractor
- Certified Gate Automation Designer
- Certified Gate Automation Technician

Several additional programs related to fences are in varying stages of development.

For more information about ACI and its programs, visit the ACI website, www.acieducation.org.

ACI and its programs are being developed in accordance with the ISO 17024 standard. Accreditation to the ISO 17024 standard (see the previous article in this series for more information about accredited certification programs) restricts some activity. Perhaps of most relevance is the inability to "grandfather" in certificants who carry credentials from another certifying body. ∎

ACI Certification, Gate Automation Designer (CGAD)
The following individuals received their CGAD between August and November 2021:

Certificant Name

Trevor Appelbaum	Tim Nordstrom
Blake Ashley	Robert Pedrini
Roy Bissada	Jason Rumler
Jenniffer Burns	Jason Shutt
Anthony Krolik	Stephen Siewert

One or more technicians from the following companies were awarded with the Gate Automation Designer certification:

Company Name

A1 Overhead Door and Gate Company	NPR Commercial Construction
Asheville Fence	S&S Fence
Controlled Products Systems Group	Tholl Fence
Doorking	Turf Design
Electronic Innovations	

ACI Certification, Gate Automation Technician (CGAT)
The following individuals received their CGAT between August and November 2021:

Certificant Name

Philip Garia	Conner Saizan
Andi Mendez Rangel	Brent Sawyer
Tim Nordstrom	Garrett St. Germain

One or more technicians from the following companies were awarded with the Gate Automation Technician certification:

Company Name

CHB Development	England Fence
Controlled Products Systems Group	Gate R Open
Dailey's Fence	Tholl Fence
Dakota Storm Roofing	