

GATE INDUSTRY LAUNCHES NEW CERTIFICATION BODY

The Accreditation and Certification Institute

By Chris Johnson, DASMA



A new organization has been formed to oversee personnel certification in the gate and fence industry. The Accreditation and Certification Institute (ACI) was officially formed at FenceTech in Salt Lake City in March.

DASMA, the American Fence Association (AFA), the National Ornamental & Miscellaneous Metals Association (NOMMA), and the Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Association (CLFMI) founded the organization and are represented on the ACI Board.

Gate certification only

DASMA remains committed to personnel certification programs that help verify capabilities of professionals in the door and access systems industry. ACI focuses exclusively on certification processes and

procedures, such as the development of exam forms and questions, administration of exams, grading exams, maintenance of certificant databases, and recertification requirements. ACI does not provide training.

ACI plans to develop programs for the fence and gate industries only. Programs for sectional doors, rolling doors, door operators, or similar products will not be addressed by ACI. Currently established and anticipated programs include the following:

- Certified Gate Automation Technician (CGAT)
- Certified Gate Automation Designer (CGAD)
- Certified Fence Contractor (CFC)
- Future program for Vinyl Fence Installers
- Future program for Chain Link Fence Installers

Accredited program

ACI will operate according to the provisions of the ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 standard: Accreditation for Personnel Certification Bodies. This places strict requirements on programs that are designed to ensure due process, impartiality, and fairness, among other objectives. Accreditation to the 17024 standard is a rigorous, costly exercise that is verified and audited by an organization such as ANSI.

Accreditation to 17024 enhances the

credibility of a certification body and the certification programs it oversees. Governmental or quasi-governmental organizations are more likely to accept an accredited program (though that process is still far from easy, even for accredited programs).

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ACI and IDEA

The ACI certification programs for gate professionals duplicate, to a great extent, the IDEA programs designed for gate professionals. DASMA is working with ACI, IDA, and IDEA to minimize the effects on gate professionals who hold credentials through IDEA.

Since the ACI exam is different from the IDEA exam, and because ACI is operating under the provisions of the ISO 17024 standard, ACI cannot simply grandfather IDEA's gate professional certificants and give them ACI credentials. Several options are being considered.

DASMA will continue to support both ACI and IDEA, where appropriate, in the best interests of the industry and industry participants.

For more information visit www.acieducation.org. ■

