



RECERTIFICATION:

New Ways to Earn & Keep Track of Your Recertification Credit

by Emily Patterson

Learn more about the new process and numerous options for earning recertification credits for Truss Technician Training.

Are you a TTT-certified truss technician who hasn't kept your certification up to date? If so, don't fear. WTCA has restructured its TTT recertification process, introducing an online notification system to let technicians know when their certification is about to expire. The restructuring also establishes new requirements for TTT recertification, allowing technicians to recertify through a wide range of industry activities. Plus, access to your certification information is right at your fingertips. Now every step in the TTT recertification process is online, letting technicians report and track their activities that qualify for recertification credit. Here's what you need to know if your certification has expired, will expire soon or you are looking for different ways to maintain your certification.

The changes to the recertification process are the result of member feedback and the work of the TTT Recertification Subcommittee, part of the Marketing Committee, to promote certification and increase its value for technicians in their everyday work. "These are the people we want in the industry to represent us," says Dave Motter, P.E., Design Manager for Tri-County Truss, Inc. in Burlington, WA, and a member of the subcommittee. "Their participation serves the industry well, and the subcommittee wanted to encourage that with these new recertification requirements," he says.



at a glance

- ❑ Every step in the TTT recertification process is online.
- ❑ It's good to offer options—anything that gives technicians real-world experience helps them in their profession and gives them greater exposure to the truss industry.
- ❑ Technicians up for recertification will be emailed starting this month. Technicians whose certification has already expired will also be notified by email.

Already Expired?

Has your certification already lapsed for a few months or even years? Not a problem. While the new TTT recertification process is implemented, technicians whose certifications have already expired will have a one-year grace period in which to recertify. Whether your certification expired three months or three years ago, everyone with an expired certificate has until January 1, 2007 to recertify.

Instant Notification

Starting this month, WTCA will begin notifying technicians via email if their certification is about to expire. The system will send a reminder email to the student and his or her training manager 45 days prior to the expiration date on the technician's certificate. Along with informing the technician that the expiration date is approaching, the email also includes information on how to recertify. It is recommended that the certificate holder begin the recertification process at this time in order to meet

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TTT Recertification

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the deadline. If the technician does not recertify, another follow-up email will be sent to the technician and training manager 15 days before the expiration date. If the certificate holder still does not recertify, both the technician and the manager will receive an email on the expiration date. This serves as a final notice.

Once the grace period expires in January 2007, anyone whose certification has lapsed and who has not recertified will not be eligible for recertification. The only way to earn certification at that point will be to begin from scratch and complete the TTT proctored exam for the last TTT level the technician completed at the prevailing exam pricing. Technicians whose certification has expired should also not use their customized TTT logo on any documents. (See sample TTT logo on page 60.)

Extended Time Frame & Reduced Price

Recertification has never been easier. For starters, beginning January 1, 2006, the certification period will be extended from two years to three years. "Changing the time frame to three years made sense because the feedback we'd gotten showed that many people felt the two-year cycle passed in the blink of an eye," explains Motter. "We didn't want the process to be burdensome, and it seemed best to simplify things and extend the time frame."

The cost to recertify has also been adjusted from \$49 to \$25 (plus any costs associated with recertification activities). "Technicians put in a lot of work in the first place to become certified. We certainly don't want them to expire, so we wanted to make sure the cost of recertification wasn't prohibitive," says Motter.

New Ways to Recertify

The restructuring of the TTT recertification process introduces a number of changes in how a technician can recertify. The new process is based on a 12-point system, where technicians earn recertification credit by participating in a number of qualifying industry-related activities. (See chart at left for a list of qualifying recertification activities and the number of points assigned to each.) Once a technician has accumulated 12 points, his or her certification is renewed for three years. For up-to-date information on certification activities, visit www.wtcatko.com and click on "Truss Technician Training."

"Most technicians who go to the extent to become certified will stay active and educated on industry issues," says

Recertification Activities	Points
Participate in a specialized online TTT recertification course that outlines the industry's latest technical developments	12 points
Present a Truss Technology Workshop or technical seminar for building officials, the local HBA, fire service, etc. For more information, visit www.wtcatko.com and click on "Truss Technician Training"	12 points
Attend a WTCA Chapter Meeting	3 points
Attend a technical or Open Quarterly Meeting	4 points
Attend a WTCA Regional Workshop & Conference	6 points
Attend BCMC	6 points
Attend technical programs offered by Associate Members (e.g., plate, lumber, connector or EWP suppliers)	To be determined on a case-by-case basis.
Complete an accredited college-level course that demonstrates the technician's desire to further his/her career	To be determined on a case-by-case basis.
Other technical activities and programs	To be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Motter. "There are a lot of educational opportunities out there that aren't necessarily captured in a formal course." The subcommittee examined a number of such educational opportunities to create the set of activities that qualify for recertification credit.

Qualifying activities include attending BCMC, WTCA Regional Workshop & Conferences, and WTCA Technical or Open Quarterly Meetings, as well as presenting a Truss Technology Workshop (TTW) or technical seminar for building officials, the local HBA, fire service, etc. Technicians also have the option of taking a specialized online recertification course that focuses on critical issues and the latest industry developments.

"There are so many avenues out there, and we wanted the recertification guidelines to reflect that," says Motter. "If someone stays active, whether it's attending local events or going to BCMC, they're participating, learning and contributing to the industry."

Taking a college-level course or attending a technical program presented by a plate, lumber, connector or EWP supplier may qualify for recertification credit as well. For events that qualify as "case by case," WTCA staff, with the assistance of the subcommittee when necessary, will evaluate each event to determine if it qualifies toward recertification, and if so, the appropriate number of recertification points. Contact WTCA for more information.

"It's good to offer options—anything that gives technicians real-world experience helps them in their profession and gives them greater exposure to the truss industry," says Bruce Bain, Operations Manager for Richco Structures in De Pere, WI. One of the companies involved in developing TTT live classes when they first debuted, Richco Structures now uses online TTT courses and requires its technicians to be certified and maintain certification.

Technicians who are TTT certified at Richco use their customized TTT logo on their placement diagrams. "That's something we plan to market," says Bain, pointing out that he believes having certified technicians could help reduce insurance premiums in the future. "Certification and recerti-

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fication show that our technicians have achieved a level of professionalism in their field. They're recognized as individuals who have earned certification in their trade. It adds to their credentials and the company's."

The first batch of recertification emails will be sent in December to those technicians whose certification has already expired. Notification emails will then be sent to technicians as their expiration date approaches. For more information on TTT recertification, visit www.wtcatko.com and click on "Truss Technician Training." **SBC**

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