



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CERTIFICATION IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES®

sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers

1420 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2794

888-476-4238 or 703-548-1518

www.nicet.org

Press Release

Committee of Subject Matter Experts Helps NICET Revise Automatic Sprinkler System Layout Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) announces that, with the help of its industry partner, the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) and other experts from the Fire Protection Industry, it is creating a new job/task analysis for the Automatic Sprinkler System Layout certification program. This new practice outline will form the basis for revision of the program. A survey based on this analysis will be sent to those in the fire protection systems practice area early in 2007. The first meeting to develop this new survey was held on October 16-17 at NICET headquarters.

Continuing on the work previously done by industry representatives, and using the standards of the certification industry, NICET is reviewing all of its programs and will be revising and updating them as necessary. The first steps in this process are to develop a list of the tasks done by the practitioner, put it into survey form and send the survey to the practitioners. Using the feedback from this survey, NICET can formulate programs based on exactly what it is that the practitioner does and the best practices associated with the field. Further data may be used to define a career track for the practice and to help advance those who are in the field. This career track can also be used to provide information for those deciding to enter the field.

The Automatic Sprinkler System Layout certification program was originally developed by NICET with the assistance of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, and began administration in 1980. The program is based on data that can be used to measure the competency of engineering technicians and supply industries and employers with a more highly skilled workforce. NICET's recertification process, emphasizing updated skills and state-of-the-art knowledge, promotes the continued professional development of its certified technicians and technologists.

NICET's roots go back to 1961 and since then, more than 118,000 technicians and technologists have met NICET's rigorous certification criteria. That number is growing rapidly as more employers and local and state governments rely on NICET certification to measure the qualifications of their workforce. By employing those workers who have demonstrated their technical qualifications, employers can provide their customers higher quality goods and services. And, ultimately, the public enjoys a higher degree of safety and protection.

NICET is a non-profit division of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Please contact Dr. Louise Wehrle, Certification Program Developer, NICET for further information; ph. 703-548-1518, X125, 888-476-7238, X125, or e-mail lwehrle@nicet.org.