

# Guide to Professional Practice Electronics Technology Services

## *Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC)*

### 1. DEFINITIONS

**Registrant** means persons or certified members regulated under the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act.

**AScT** means a person who is certified and registered as an Applied Science Technologist with ASTTBC.

**CTech** means a person who is registered as a Certified Technician with ASTTBC.

**Direct Supervision** means the responsibility for the control and conduct of the engineering technology work of a subordinate where required ASTTBC policy or by law.

### 2. PURPOSE

This Guide to Professional Practice to outline Electronics Technology Services (the “Guide”) has been adopted to assist ASTTBC registrants understand and provide services and take professional responsibility within their field, the definition of scope of practice and legal limitations. While not exhaustive, the Guide provides a context for the type of technical functions, which a registrant may be qualified to carry out. The carrying out of professional services is permitted under this Guide provided the services are consistent with the requirements of each project and this Guide.

This Guide recognizes that registrants have attained, by virtue of a combination of education, training and experience, competencies which enables them to apply known engineering technology principles and techniques to the solution of practical engineering technology problems of varying complexity within the ASTTBC definition of scope of practice and this Guide.

Registrants are required to comply with the ASTTBC *Code of Ethics* and any Guide to Professional Practice approved by Council.

A registrant generally works within a team of professionals which may include technologists, technicians, engineers, trades people, quality assurance practitioners, business management specialists, computer programmers, architects or other technical and administrative staff. The role of the registrant will vary depending on the size and complexity of the product or facilities being designed. There is no restriction on who may ‘manage’ professional services, with the understanding that the appropriate registered professionals are involved in carrying out any work which may be restricted by law.

A registrant may be the team leader of a project which is more complex than the scope of practice contemplated by this Guide when responsibility is assumed by another appropriately qualified and registered professional, whether a registrant of ASTTBC or of another professional regulatory body, and where restricted in law.

A registrant must be able to recognize any unique characteristics, which due to their complexity or other issues, are beyond their field of expertise and require the involvement of another qualified professional. Consideration of such matters is especially critical when the risk to the public is increased by factors related to the type and size of project and the degree of impact on public health, safety and the environment.

### **3. AREA OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

This Guide recognizes the services that ASTTBC registrants have traditionally carried out in the provision of electronics technology services. Under the authority of the ASTT Act and Regulations, and this Guide, a registrant may take responsibility for the carrying out of one or more of the services itemized in this Guide without requiring the direct supervision of another appropriately qualified professional, unless restricted in law.

### **4. ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

A registrant may perform a variety of technical, management and administrative activities in their provision or practise of electronics technology services.

These activities include, but are not limited to the specification, planning, design, installation, management and maintenance of all electronics-based systems including firmware and software.

This scope does not include integrated systems services which may require extensive knowledge of applied science or engineering technology disciplines other than electrical or electronics, and which may significantly affect human health or safety.

Compliance with existing standards and/or industry accepted norms are required in order for a registrant to take professional responsibility for a particular technical function.

### **5. STAMPING**

An ASTTBC registrant may affix their stamp, with signature and date, to all designs and reports in a manner consistent with the current ASTTBC policy on stamping and seals. Where such work is a part of a total service or product, the registrant will qualify the application of the stamp with respect to which portions of the work have been undertaken without supervision.

Where a registrant has completed work under direct supervision, the registrant will affix their stamp only for those aspects of the work completed by the registrant. The supervising professional will affix their stamp clearly noting their role as the professional providing the direct supervision and taking responsibility for the work.

## 6. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

ASTTBC registrants shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment and the promotion of health and safety within the workplace. Recognizing that errors and omissions do occur, registrants are encouraged to carry errors and omissions and general liability or other insurance appropriate to the circumstances. Registrants may access the ASTTBC group plan or seek third party coverage. The onus is always on the registrant to make the decision as to what best serves the interests of the public and protects the registrant. At all times the registrant will disclose to their client as to whether or not they have errors and omissions insurance and if insurance is in place, the limits of that insurance.

## 7. ASTT ACT & REGULATIONS

The *Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act (ASTT Act)* regulating registrants of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) calls on the association, in the statement of 'Objects', to **“regulate standards of training and practice of and for its registrants and to protect the interests of the public”**.

The *ASTT Act* protects the titles Applied Science Technologist (AScT) and Certified Technician (CTech) and in this way informs the public as to those registered with, and governed by, ASTTBC.

The *ASTT Regulations* are pursuant to the *ASTT Act* and defines a registrant's scope of practice, discipline(s) in which registrants are registered, and references a Code of Ethics and Guides to Professional Practice.

Registrants are required to adhere to the ASTTBC Act and Regulations.

## 8. REFERENCES

The following documents are a range of suggested as reference resources to inform a registrant's practice:

- *ASTT Act & Regulations*
- *ASTTBC Code of Ethics*
- *Engineers & Geoscientists Act*
- *Canadian Electrical Code*
- *IEEE Standards*
- *UL Standards, eg. UL508*
- *ISO Standards*

- ASTM Standards
- NEMA Standards
- ANSI Standards
- NFPA Standards, eg. NFPA70
- National Electrical Code (USA)
- Other codes and standards appropriate to the circumstance
- Other ASTTBC Guides to Professional Practice in related practice areas.

## **9. LIMITATIONS**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this Guide. Any error or omission does not relieve a registrant from making decisions and assuming professional responsibility appropriate to the circumstances.

### **Revision History:**

*Approved by ASTTBC Council September 27, 2007*

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