

# Guide to Professional Practice Geomatics Technology Services

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

### 1. DEFINITIONS

**Registrant** means a person or certified member regulated under the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act (ASTTBC).

**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.

**RSIS** means a person who is registered with ASTTBC as Registered in Site Improvements Surveying

**SIS** means Site Improvements Surveys

### 2. PURPOSE

This Guide to Professional Practice for Geomatics Technology Services has been adopted to assist ASTTBC registrants understand, 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 a registrant may be qualified to carry out. Independent professional services are permitted where allowed by law and as stipulated under this Guide, provided the services are consistent with the requirements of each project.

This Guide recognizes that registrants have attained a combination of education, training, experience, and occupational competency which enables them to apply known engineering, surveying and mapping technology and techniques to the solution of practical geomatics technology problems of varying complexity within the ASTTBC definition of scope of practice, this Guide, and other applicable jurisdictional laws.

Registrants are required to comply with the ASTTBC Code of Ethics, any Guide to Professional Practice approved by Council, and any other applicable laws relating to the practice of geomatics technology.

A registrant generally works within a team of professionals, which may include technologists, technicians, land surveyors, engineers, geoscientists, building officials, foresters, agronomists, biologists, landscape architects, architects or other technical and administrative staff. The role of the registrant will vary depending on the size and complexity of the geomatics project.

There is no restriction on who may 'manage' medical technology services, with the understanding that the appropriate registered professionals or authorized individuals are involved in carrying out the work.

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 where required by 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, whether a registrant of ASTTBC or another professional association. 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 geomatics 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. GEOMATICS TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Following is a description of specific technical functions or activities, which a member may carry out as part of their provision of geomatics services. Geomatics is described as a field of activities which, using a systemic approach, integrates all the means used to acquire, analyze and manage spatial data required as part of scientific, administrative, legal and technical operations involved in the process of the production and management of spatial information.

These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Cartography
- Control surveying
- Engineering surveys
- Construction surveying
- Site improvements surveying
- Mining surveying

- Natural resource surveys
- Forensics geodesy
- Hydrography
- Global positioning / navigation system surveying
- Photogrammetry
- Remote sensing
- Land information management and land use planning
- Geomatics project management
- Geomatics standards and specifications
- Geographic information system management and spatial data management
- Project management, including records management.

An appropriate standard is required to be in place in order for a member to take professional responsibility for a particular technical function or an aspect of a particular technical function identified.

The member shall take note of practice restrictions incorporated in other professional legislation and govern their practise accordingly. For example, the Land Surveyors Act is of particular importance. The foregoing activities shall not include geomatics services that are restricted by the by the Land Surveyors Act.

In addition, a member may not take professional responsibility for *Site Improvements Surveys*, unless they have been certified in Site Improvements Surveying by ASTTBC as Registered Site Improvements Surveys (RSIS). In carrying out such work the member must do so in accordance with the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors (ABCLS) and the ASTTBC Memorandum of Understanding dated February 10, 2006 or the most recent version of this agreement.

## 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 suggested as part of a range of reference material which are used to inform practice:

- ASTT Act & Regulations and Code of Ethics
- Land Surveyors Act
- Engineers & Geoscientists Act
- Municipal Act; Local Government Act
- ABCLS – ASTTBC Memorandum of Understanding
- Association of BC Land Surveyors Survey Rules
- 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*  
*Revised September 27, 2018 for Council Information*  
*Revised January 23, 2020 for Council Approval*  
***Approved by ASTTBC Council January 23, 2020***