Guide to Professional Practice

Geomatics Technology Services

This Guide has been approved by the Council of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia

Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC
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PREAMBLE

The Guide to Professional Practice: Geomatics Technology Services aims to define the competencies and scope of practice for ASTTBC registrants. Registrants are required to comply with the Professional Governance Act, its regulations, ASTTBC Bylaws, including ASTTBC's Standards of Competence, any Guide to Professional Practice approved by the Council, applicable codes and standards of practice as well as other applicable municipal, provincial, and federal legislation relating to the practice of geomatics technology.

1.0. DEFINITIONS

Registrant means a person who is granted admission, enrolment or reinstatement in a class of registrants within a category of registration with ASTTBC.

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

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

RSIS means a person Registered in Site Improvements Surveying

SIS means Site Improvements Surveys

2.0. PURPOSE

The Guide to Professional Practice for *Geomatic**s** Technology Services* (the "Guide") has been adopted to support ASTTBC registrants in understanding the service areas and taking professional responsibility within their field. The Guide also aims to provide a definition of scope of practice and legal limitations, as outlined in section 3.0. 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 additional professional services is permitted under this Guide, provided the services are consistent with the requirements of each project and this Guide. 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.

A registrant generally works within a team of professionals, which may include technologists, technicians, land surveyors, engineers, geoscientists, building officials, foresters, agrologists, 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' professional services, with the understanding that the appropriate registered professionals 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 an appropriately qualified and registered professional.

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 regulator. 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.

3.0. AREA OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Following is a description of specific technical functions or activities, which a registrant 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.

A registrant may be involved in one or more of the following activities:

- Cartography
- Control surveying
- Engineering surveys
- Construction surveying
- Site improvements surveying
- Mining surveying
- Natural resource surveys
- Forensic geodesy
- Hydrography
- Global positioning/navigation system surveying
- 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.
- Technical drawings
- Quantity surveying/estimating.
- Photogrammetry
- Remote sensing

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

4.0. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Registrants must ensure that they are continuously updating and advancing their knowledge, skills, and competence through continued education and professional development studies. Continuing education requirements include, but are not limited to, trainings, workshops, certifications, and other requirements to support professional development in areas of practice, ethics, and competence. It is mandatory for a practising registrant to complete CPD requirements as detailed in ASTTBC Bylaws, Part VI and Schedule F.

5.0. STAMPING

In accordance with section 84 of ASTTBC's bylaws, a temporary and practising registrant in good standing must affix their stamp and/or seal, with signature and date, to all designs, reports, specification or other documents that may require a stamp or steal, either as required by law or ASTTBC practice guidelines. 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 of another registered professional, the registrant may affix their stamp or seal only for those aspects of the work completed by the registrant. The supervising professional will affix their stamp or seal clearly noting their role as the professional providing the direct supervision.

6.0. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

ASTTBC registrants are required to 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. It is the responsibility of the ASTTBC registrant to ensure that adequate professional liability (E&O) insurance is in place. In accordance with section 86 of ASTTBC Bylaws, registrants must carry and maintain professional liability insurance either through the employer or a third-party organisation. In keeping with section 86.1 of ASTTBC's bylaws, before entering into an agreement to provide applied science and engineering technology services, registrants must provide a written notification to their client of the status of their professional liability insurance and confirm whether it covers the services to be provided. Registrants must also request the client to provide a written acknowledgement of receipt of the written notification.

7.0. PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT AND ASTTBC BYLAWS

In February 2021, the *Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act* was repealed and ASTTBC was continued as a regulatory body under the Professional Governance Act. As a regulatory body under the Professional Governance Act, ASTTBC has the duty to serve and protect the public interest with respect to the conduct of its registrants and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities in the public interest. ASTTBC is subject to the oversight of the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG), which operates under the Ministry of Attorney General.

ASTTBC's bylaws create various categories of registration, including practising and trainee, as well as requirements for maintaining registration with ASTTBC in good standing. ASTTBC is responsible for ensuring that registrants conduct themselves in a professional, competent, and ethical manner in the provision of services to the public. This includes by creating and disseminating practice guidelines, standards of competence and a Code of Ethics to ASTTBC registrants with which registrants must comply. This practice guideline should be read in conjunction with section 85 and Schedule D of ASTTBC's bylaws.

In accordance with the Professional Governance Act and the ASTT Regulation, registrants of ASTTBC are permitted to engage in the regulated practice of applied science technology and are granted exclusive use of reserved titles. In accordance with the ASTT Regulation, registrants of ASTTBC have exclusive use of the titles of Applied Science Technologist (AScT), Applied Science Technologist Trainee, Certified Technician (CTech), Certified Technician Trainee, and Registered Technical Specialist (RTS).

8.0. 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.

REFERENCES

The following documents are suggested as reference material:

1. Professional Governance Act
2. ASTTBC Bylaws
3. Land Surveyors Act
4. Association of BC Land Surveyors Survey Rules
5. Geomatic Resources- Province of BC
6. ABCLS – ASTTBC Memorandum of Understanding
7. Other applicable codes and standards
8. Other ASTTBC Guides to Professional Practice in related practice areas

REVISION HISTORY

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