

ASTTBC Guidance for Non-Practising Status

Purpose

This document is intended to provide guidance for Registrants of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC who elect to move to non-practising status.

Disclaimer

Please note, this document is for guidance only and may not apply in every circumstance. This document does not alter a registrant's obligations under the *Professional Governance Act* [SBC 2018] CHAPTER 47 (the "Act") or the ASTTBC bylaws (the "bylaws"). In the event of any conflict between this document and the Act or the bylaws, the Act or the bylaws take precedence.

Definition of Non-Practising Status

Non-practising status gives current practising ASTTBC Registrants who are not actively employed or engaged in the practise of applied science or engineering technology the option of maintaining a form of registration. Non-practising status allows Registrants to continue to use their designation(s) in a restricted manner, as outlined below.

Intention of Non-Practising Status

Non-practising status is the category of registration intended for registrants on leave or who anticipate not engaging in practice for a defined period of time, such as parental leave, medical leave, caregiver leave, unemployment, returning to school, or out-of-province/country leave.

Registrants should determine whether the intended duration of their absence merits moving into the non-practising category of registration. It is recommended that registrants consider the implications of moving into non-practising, such as the elimination of practice rights, the restricted title, the requirements for reinstatement of practice rights (including continuing professional development), the non-practising fees, and the reinstatement fees.

Eligibility for Non-Practising Status

An ASTTBC practicing registrant in good standing or otherwise meeting the requirements for practising registration under section 36 of the *bylaws* is eligible to apply for non-practising registration

Overview of Non-Practising Registration

A non-practising registrant is not eligible to:

- practice, supervise or delegate in any class of applied science and engineering technology practice and must not display the certificate of registration where it could lead someone to believe you are a practising registrant.
- be nominated as a councillor by the nomination committee
- sit on committees
- vote in an election of councillors
- vote at the annual general meeting or any special general meeting
- use a stamp, seal or digital signature as outlined in section 84 of the *bylaws*

A non-practising registrant is not obliged to meet continuing professional development requirements while they remain a non-practising registrant. However, should a non-practising registrant wish to reinstate to practising status, they must provide proof of completion of all continuing professional development requirements under Part VI of the bylaws, as if they had not ceased to be registered. This requirement may be waived or reduced by the Credentials Committee upon reinstatement.

Professional Designations for Non-Practising Status

A non-practising registrant must include the word "non-practising" in brackets at the end of their title or designation, such as ASCT (Non-practising), CTech (Non-practising), RFPT (Non-practising), ROWP (Non-practising), etc. A non-practising registrant shall retain their assigned registrant number. Information about non-practising registrants will be displayed in the ASTTBC registry as required by the *bylaws*, Act and/or regulations.

Moving back to Practising Status

Moving from non-practising status to practising status requires an application for reinstatement. Please read sections 48 to 48.3 of the ASTTBC *bylaws* for full details. Reinstatement requirements are based on time that has elapsed since that applicant was last a practising registrant in good standing and includes proof of completion of all continuing professional development requirements under Part VI of the *bylaws*, as if the applicant had not ceased to be registered, etc. Reinstatement after 3 or more years also requires a declaration of competencies validated by referees and completion of a professional practice and ethics exam. It may also require completion of a jurisprudence exam (if applicable) and refresher courses, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How much does it cost to be in the non-practising category?

The renewal of annual registration fee for non-practising status is \$99.76 (plus GST) for a total of \$104.75 and must be paid by November 30th each year. Fees are listed in Schedule C of the *bylaws*. There is no time limit on holding non-practising status, however, the length of time in this category of registration may have implications on the requirements for reinstating to practising status.

As a non-practising registrant must I continue to do continuing professional development?

A non-practising registrant is not obliged to meet the continuing professional development requirements while they remain in the non-practising category of registration.

Should a non-practising registrant wish to apply for reinstatement to practising status, proof of the completion of all continuing professional development is required as if the registrant had ceased to be registered. This requirement may be waived or reduced by the credentials committee upon reinstatement.

Can I avoid an investigation or discipline if I elect non-practising status?

No. Changing your status to non-practising will not affect any active investigation or disciplinary action and will not stop an investigation or discipline arising from the time when you were practising.

What are the ramifications if I resume the practice of applied science or engineering technology while currently holding non-practising status?

Non-practising Registrants who engage in the practice of applied science or engineering technology are in contravention of the *bylaws* and are subject to potential investigation and discipline.

I am in good standing with ASTTBC but not as a practising registrant; can I apply for non-practising status?

No. Only an ASTTBC practising registrant in good standing or otherwise meeting the requirements for practising registration under section 36 of the *bylaws* is eligible to apply for non-practising registration.

I am not currently in good standing with ASTTBC; can I apply for non-practising status?

No. Only an ASTTBC practising registrant in good standing or otherwise meeting the requirements for practising registration under section 36 of the *bylaws* is eligible to apply for non-practising registration.

How do I display my title if I hold non-practising status?

If you hold non-practising status, you must include “non-practising” in brackets at the end of your reserved title.

Will my name appear in ASTTBC’s online directory if I elect non-practising status?

Yes. Your name will continue to appear on ASTTBC’s online directory, with an indication that you hold non-practising status.

Can I keep my physical stamp or seal?

Yes, you may still keep your physical stamp or seal, but you are not permitted to use it. Should you use your stamp or seal while holding non-practising status, you may be subject to potential investigation and discipline. Further, as per section 83.2 of the *bylaws*, any stamp or seal provided to a registrant remains the property of ASTTBC and must be returned immediately upon demand by the Registrar.

What happens to my digital seal if I elect non-practising status?

As per section 83.4 of the *bylaws*, the Registrar must revoke digital signature service for a registrant who ceases to be a practising registrant.

I want to move to practising status, what is required?

Moving from non-practising status to practising status requires submission of a complete online application for reinstatement. Please read sections 48 to 48.3 of the ASTTBC *bylaws* for full details. Reinstatement requirements are based on time that has elapsed since that applicant was last a practising registrant in good standing and includes proof of completion of all continuing professional development requirements under Part VI of the *bylaws*, as if the applicant had not ceased to be registered, etc. Reinstatement after 3 or more years also requires a declaration of competencies validated by referees and completion of a professional practice and ethics exam. It may also require completion of a jurisprudence exam (if applicable) and refresher courses, etc.