ASTTBC Practice Advisory:
Use of Artificial Intelligence and other Technology Tools in Professional Practice

Date: April 2026

Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC)

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer-based systems that use data-driven models to generate output such as information, recommendations, or decisions. The use of AI-based, advanced technology tools in applied science and engineering technology practice continues to increase as these systems can generate, analyze, and process information and data in ways that assist and can influence professional work and decision-making.

While these tools can improve efficiency and support technical work, they also introduce risks related to accuracy, reliability, and transparency which may affect the appropriate application of professional judgment. It is important that registrants understand that the use of these tools does not change their obligation to practice competently, ethically, and in a manner that protects the safety of public and environment.

This Practice Advisory clarifies expectations for the use of artificial intelligence and technology tools in professional practice and confirms that registrants remain responsible for all work they perform, supervise, review, and/or authenticate.

Application and Authority

This Practice Advisory applies to all registrants of ASTTBC.

Registrants must comply with this advisory when using artificial intelligence, AI-based automation, software, or any other technology tools in the course of their professional practice. Obligations under the *Professional Governance Act*, the *ASTTBC Bylaws*, the ASTTBC Standard for Professional Practice and Conduct, the Code of Ethics, and all other applicable ASTTBC standards of practice and guidance materials apply.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Practice Advisory:

"Technology tools" means software, automated systems, artificial intelligence, modeling platforms, simulations, digital instruments, and any other system used to support, inform, or produce professional work.

"Artificial intelligence (AI)" means systems that can reason, solve problems, and understand language to generate outputs, predictions, recommendations, or decisions using data-driven models, including machine learning and generative systems.

"Automated output" means any result generated by a software system, automated process, or artificial intelligence without the direct application of a registrant's professional judgment.

Professional Responsibility and Use of Technology

Registrants must not rely on technology tools as a substitute for the direct application of professional judgment.

A registrant remains responsible for all professional work and must ensure it is accurate, complete, and appropriate for its intended purpose through personal review prior to approval, authentication, or reliance. The registrant must be satisfied that the work meets the applicable standard of care, including compliance with relevant codes and standards, and must take reasonable steps to uphold this responsibility regardless of the extent of technology use.

Competence, Verification, and Reliability

Registrants must undertake work, including work supported by technology tools, only within the limits of their training, knowledge, and experience, including competence in the use of those tools.

A registrant must understand the technology used well enough to assume the full professional responsibility to assess the reliability of its outputs, recognize when additional verification or expertise is required, and must not rely on any tool where the results cannot be appropriately verified.

All work produced with the assistance of technology tools must be properly checked and verified, and automated outputs must not be accepted without appropriate documented review to confirm accuracy, compliance with applicable codes and standards, and suitability for their intended use. The level of checking and verification must be commensurate with the complexity of the work, risk, and the potential consequences of error.

Direct Supervision and Delegation

The use of technology does not reduce the obligation to provide appropriate direct supervision of delegated work.

Registrants who directly supervise the work of others must be technically competent, be appropriately registered, and should establish a delegated workplan, identifying scope and limitations, to ensure that the work is performed by individuals who are technically competent to carry it out and that it is properly reviewed before being relied upon. Work may be delegated to non-certified and/or other registrants who demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the registrant-of-record, the appropriate technical competency, knowledge, training, and experience, to complete the work.

Where ASTTBC standards require direct supervision, that requirement continues to apply without exception and registrants must not use technology to reduce, replace, or circumvent required levels of direct supervision.

Registrants must not permit the use of technology tools, including AI to enable non-registrants to perform work that requires the competence of a registrant. A registrant remains responsible for all work carried out under their direct supervision and shall not delegate work to individuals who are not competent to perform that work.

Technology and Scope of Practice

The use of technology tools does not alter the requirements related to a registrant's scope of practice or areas where registrants are recognized as qualified professionals under applicable legislation, regulation, or authority having jurisdiction.

Where work requires the competence of a registrant, it must be performed by, or under the appropriate supervision of, a qualified registrant. Registrants must not rely on artificial intelligence, automation, or other technology tools to independently perform work that requires professional competence, nor use such tools to enable individuals who do not possess the required knowledge, training, or experience to undertake work that would otherwise require the involvement of a qualified registrant.

Appropriate Use of Technology Tools

Registrants must ensure that any AI-based technology tool used in their professional practice is suitable for its intended purpose and is used appropriately.

This includes ensuring that tools are properly configured and maintained, that users are adequately trained, and that limitations of the technology are understood.

Where a system produces results automatically, a registrant must ensure those results are correct and appropriate for use. Reliance on results does not replace professional judgment or reduce the level of care required in performing the work.

Disclosure of Use of Technology Tools

Registrants must disclose the use of artificial intelligence and other technology tools where such tools influence, inform, or produce professional work relied upon by others.

A registrant must ensure that such use is clearly and appropriately communicated to relevant parties, including clients, employers, regulators, or other stakeholders who rely on the work, and that the disclosure identifies the use of technology tools, describes the nature and extent of their use, and

confirms that the work has been reviewed and validated in accordance with applicable professional standards.

Registrants must not represent work as having been developed solely through independent professional judgment where technology tools have contributed to the outcome, and must ensure that disclosure does not replace, but rather accompanies, the obligation to exercise professional judgment, verify results, and take full professional responsibility for the work. Where professional work is authenticated, any required disclosure must be included in or accompany the authenticated record in a manner that is clear to the intended user of the work.

Confidentiality and Protection of Information

Registrants must protect confidential, proprietary, and sensitive information in accordance with professional and ethical obligations.

They must also ensure that the use of technology tools, including artificial intelligence systems and cloud-based platforms, complies with applicable privacy, confidentiality, and data protection requirements. Registrants must not input information into systems that cannot ensure appropriate protection and remain responsible for safeguarding all clients, employers, and public information regardless of the tools used.

Records and Documentation

Registrants must maintain adequate records of professional work to ensure appropriate quality and control, and that, where technology tools are used, documentation demonstrates that the work was carried out in accordance with professional standards.

Records must identify the tools used, the purpose of their use, the assumptions made, the verification performed, and the professional decisions taken, and must demonstrate that appropriate professional judgment was applied and that the work meets the required standard of care. Records must be retained in accordance with ASTTBC Bylaws, including applicable retention requirements.

Ethical Obligations

Registrants must comply with the requirements of the PGA, ASTTBC Bylaws, Standards of Practice, the Code of Ethics, and Practice Guides.

Registrants must also comply with these in all aspects of professional work, including the use of technology tools, and must not misrepresent automated or generated outputs as independent professional judgment. Registrants must not allow the use of technology to compromise safety, reduce the quality of work, or create a misleading impression of technical competence, and must ensure that the primary obligation to protect the public, the environment and property take precedence over

considerations of efficiency, cost, or convenience. Registrants have a duty to report and must report unsafe, unethical, or unauthorized practice in accordance with their professional obligations.

Professional Judgment and Protection of the Public, Environment and Property

Technology tools, including artificial intelligence, support professional work but do not replace the responsibility of a registrant to exercise independent professional judgment.

Registrants must ensure that the use of technology does not reduce the level of care required by the Professional Governance Act, the ASTTBC Bylaws, the Code of Ethics, or ASTTBC standards of practice, and must act in a manner that protects the safety, health, and welfare of the public where uncertainty exists. Work that requires the technical competence of a registrant must not be performed by a non-registrant or by a registrant who does not possess the required knowledge, training, and experience.

Compliance and Enforcement

Registrants must comply with this Practice Advisory and all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements. Failure to meet obligations under the Professional Governance Act, the ASTTBC Bylaws, the Code of Ethics / Code of Conduct, or applicable standards of practice may result in regulatory action, regardless of whether technology tools were used.

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