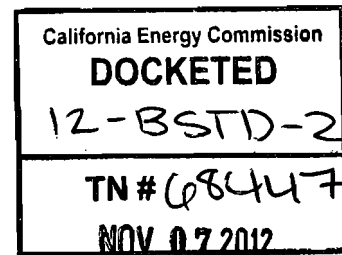


October 24, 2012

California Energy Commission
Attention: Docket No. 12-BSTD-2
Dockets Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Support for Proposed Non-Residential Acceptance Contractor/Tester Certification

Dear Commissioners:

My name is ELI CARRABINO, I am an HVAC Journeyperson. I have been in the HVAC System Installation Trade since 1996. I have completed a 5 year HVAC System/Sheet Metal Apprenticeship program.

I am submitting these comments in support of the Energy Commission's proposal to require certification of anyone performing Title 24 acceptance testing. The proposed Title 24 energy code update requires sophisticated inspections, but these inspections are useless unless performed by acceptance testers that have the skills, knowledge and ability to competently perform these inspections. Without high quality inspections, the code cannot be enforced, and we will not achieve our energy efficiency goals. I support the concept of taking advantage of the existing certification programs that are offered by NEBB, AABC and TABB. AABC, NEBB and TABB are respected, experienced national organizations that were created specifically to verify that HVAC systems perform as designed. Each of these organizations is accredited under ISO/IEC 17024, the internationally recognized standard for certification bodies. This accreditation ensures that TABB, NEBB and AABC have the existing infrastructure and ability to address the challenges of providing training and certification for Title 24 HVAC acceptance test technicians, supervisors and employers. Because these programs are already established, they have the capability to immediately start providing California acceptance testing certifications, ensuring that the benefits of this proposed regulation are achieved sooner rather than later.

While I support the designation of the specific TAB organizations as Acceptance Test Technician Certification Providers, I am concerned that the requirements for allowing other entities to also become Acceptance Test Technician Certification Providers may not be rigorous enough. Approval of an Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider should be based on adherence to the following minimum standards:

- The certification body should be tied to an organization that trains for broad occupational competency in building and construction, including in mechanical systems or in lighting systems.

- Certification Providers should be accredited or have demonstrated that the quality of their certification program has been reviewed and assessed by a representative panel of industry experts.

The regulations should also require that any application includes provision of all training and testing procedures, manuals, handbooks and materials and a detailed explanation of how the efficacy of the training curriculum content and methods was evaluated and verified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ali Carrabina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

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1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
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Re: Support for Proposed Non-Residential Acceptance Contractor/Tester Certification

Dear Commissioners:

My name is EU CARRABINO, I am an HVAC Journeyperson. I have been in the HVAC System Installation Trade since 1996. I have completed a 5 year HVAC System/Sheet Metal Apprenticeship program.

I am writing to support the Energy Commission's proposed regulations requiring certification for persons who perform Title 24 Acceptance Testing and Documentation for HVAC and advanced lighting control. Proper training and certification of individuals performing and documenting acceptance tests is crucial for California to realize its energy efficiency goals. Furthermore, I strongly support the Commission's decision to utilize existing programs to provide this certification rather than completely reinventing the wheel as was done with the HERS program. The TAB certification bodies identified as pre-approved certifiers are well-respected, nationally-renowned programs with rigorous curriculum, hands on training, and quality controls. TAB technicians are already available throughout the state and no other certifications exist that provide the training expertise and quality control necessary to ensure that HVAC systems actually perform as required under Title 24. The California Green Building Code already requires small commercial buildings to balance their HVAC systems in accordance with TABB, AABC or NEBB procedures, so this requirement will ensure consistency with current practices.

I also strongly support the pre-approval of existing TABB, NEBB and AABC contractors and technicians to perform these acceptance tests. These contractors and technicians should be rewarded for having invested in this advanced training before such training was even a requirement under Title 24. Moreover, they currently are the only technicians with verifiable training and experience in the skills and knowledge necessary to ensure competent testing, adjusting and balancing of commercial HVAC systems.

I also support the requirement for certification of acceptance test technician employers in order to ensure a high level of accountability and quality control. Certification of employers ensures appropriate supervision and support for the certified acceptance test technicians. By putting the employer's certification on the line in addition to the certified technician, pressure on the technician to quickly test and pass a system is reduced and it is more likely that the technician will be provided sufficient equipment, resources and time to correctly perform the acceptance test.

Sincerely,

