THE CURATOR

The Newsletter of the Association of Credentialed Rope Accessed Building Assessment Technicians

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Working For Wellbeing / A Call To Unite

Consider if you will the entire Building Inspections Trades industries, some 250,000 field technicians providing informational reports for Insurance, Roofing, and Engineering companies in this country alone. Now consider the current cost in human injury associated with obtaining that information which stands at just under four times that of the construction industry (*83 injuries per million job site specific activity hours Vs. 21 per million for construction workers*) and growing. Elevated production expectations combined with the ever increasing complexity of new construction are but a few of the additional burdens shouldered by today's field inspection representatives. History has demonstrated time and again that when any task begins to exceed our capabilities, new tools and skills must be incorporated to rebalance the scales that measure work product to within the realm of reasonable risk. Personal Fall Arrest Systems are anything but new to the work at height world, our industry just happens to be the last of the large professions without a sound height related risk management plan. No one can benefit from PFAS risk management strategy without the tangible resources for implementation. The information to resolve our problem is well within our grasp yet can only succeed with the support of our industry's leaders to help chair this association from this point forward. Please join us in our efforts to resolve this problem once and for all. See our website at www.acrabat.org and contact us if you are interested in holding a seat on the ACRABAT member board.

WHY ACRABAT?

An estimated quarter million Building Inspection Trades Professionals in this country are without organized leadership on how to manage personal risk when performing work at height and high angle job related duties.

Our Mission Statement

ACRABAT seeks to establish and promote effective work at height risk management procedures for the building inspection trades Industry. ACRABAT develops and updates training curriculum for field inspection technicians, the instructors that train them and the operations administrators that manage and maintain such programs.

Our Vision Statement

(ACRABAT) is recognized as the leading professional resource for the facilitation of safe roofing inspection practice, informational programs and trainings based on the educated consensus among the leaders of the roof inspection trades industries.

ACRABAT Adopts Practitioner Standards

Level I (Field Technician), Level II (Instructor) & Level III (Program Administrator)

Practitioner Certification Standards were created in order to establish common standards for identifying practitioner knowledge and skills at a minimum level. The goal of ACRABAT standards of practice is to encourage the continuous improvement of roof access safety and training standards by promoting uniformity within the roof inspection trades industry.

Certification is a credential achieved by an individual that indicates to the rest of the industry that the individual has completed specific training and successfully passed a series of knowledge and skills tests that comply with standards established by ACRABAT.

All ACRABAT Practitioner Certification Standards are written on a working document that will receive updated revisions to reflect new trends and best practices for the industry as needed.

SECTION A: CERTIFICATION STANDARD RELATED TO LEVEL I, II & III PRACTITIONERS

A1 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

A1.1 Scope of Certification
There are three different types of practitioners: Level I / Technician, Level II / Instructor and Level III / Program Administrator .

To be certified, an individual must complete an initial training program that addresses appropriate Personal Fall Arrest System assisted roof inspection safety standards.

Given the agreement of a certifying body, experienced practitioners may challenge into a level by providing documentation of experience and completed trainings and by passing both the documented skills and knowledge tests for that level.

A1.2 Certifying Body
A certifying body is an organization that provides for individual certification. All certifying organizations must be able to provide for minimum levels of equipment, information and site specific standards consistent with Level I, II, & III Practitioner training requirements.

A1.3 Testing
A certifying body is responsible for developing and administering practical skills and knowledge testing consistent with applicable practitioner level standards.

Certifying bodies must maintain records documenting all class participants that they have tested and the results of those tests.

A2 LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

A2.1 Level I Practitioner / Technician

A2.1.1 No experience is required prior to entering a Level I training program.

A2.1.2 Minimum age for certification as a Level I Technician is 18.

A2.1.3 A minimum number of content appropriate training hours must be completed for full Level I certification. Trainings may exceed time minimums in order to cover specific vendor and/or equipment manufacturer recommendations.

A2.1.3a Full Level I Certification: A minimum of sixteen (16) hours of level appropriate curriculum is required.

A2.1.3b Level I Classroom Activities: A minimum of four (4) hours of classroom activities that include curriculum on working loads, fall factors, deceleration, lifeline equipment manufacturer's recommendations on use and retirement.

A2.1.3c Level I Ground level Activities: A minimum of four (4) hours of ground level activities that include curriculum on lifeline placement as well as anchor selection, set up and use.

A2.1.3d Level I Off Ground Activities (six feet or more above ground level): A minimum of six (6) hours off ground 7/12 – 12/12 & 12/12+ pitched roof climbing curriculum that includes participant use of both ascending and descending devices in a manner consistent with manufacturers recommendations.

A2.1.3e Level I Self Rescue Activities: A minimum of two (2) hours of self rescue curriculum that includes participant's demonstrated ability to free themselves from a position of true vertical suspension.

A2.1.4 The training organization must provide program participants with appropriate documentation of training curriculum completed with a copy of the class manual and syllabus. All participants who have completed Level I curriculum passed level I skills and knowledge testing and provided appropriate documentation of field related experience must be provided a certification document or card by the *certifying body*.

A2.1.5 Full Level I Certification is one of the steps required to obtain Level II Instructor status however, in and of itself is insufficient to train others.

A2.1.6 Level I practitioners should be able to complete roof inspections in a self belayed environment.

A2.1.7 The duration for Level I Technician certification is for one (1) year.

A2.1.8 Level I Practitioner recertification process will include

either 1) Twenty (20) hours of field experience completed in the previous year along with successful completion of a written knowledge test administered by a certifying body; or 2) take an additional eight (8) hours of Level I training and pass a written knowledge and skills test.

A2.1.9 An experienced practitioner may "challenge in" to a Level I certified status. This process requires that the Level I applicant present a portfolio documenting sixty (60) combined hours of training and field experience and pass both written knowledge and skills testing that meet Level I standards.

A2.1.10 Written knowledge test must meet Level I training standards and be passed with a score of at least 80%.

A2.1.11 All applicants must successfully complete a practical skills test that complies with Level I standards in order to receive certification.

A2.2 Level II Practitioner / Instructor

A2.2.1 All participants must have successfully obtained a Level I Technician status prior to beginning Level II Instructor training.

A2.2.2 Minimum age for certification as a Level II Instructor is 21.

A2.2.3 A minimum number of content appropriate training and field related experience hours must be completed for full Level II certification. Trainings may exceed time minimums in order to cover specific vendor and/or equipment manufacturer recommendations.

A2.2.3a Full Level II Certification: forty (40) hours of Level II curriculum, two hundred (200) hours total of documented field related experience and forty (40) hours of supervised instruction to level I trainees is required. Training hours must cover all areas contained in Operations Standards. Sixteen (16) hours of the forty (40) hours of Level II training can be completed as self-study provided that the material covered is consistent with Level II curriculum and documented within a personal training portfolio as proof of completion.

A2.2.3b Level II Classroom Activities: A minimum of eight (8) hours of classroom activities that include curriculum on equipment manufacturers use standards for lifeline equipment use, maintenance and retirement, Department of Labor's regulation of the construction industry, ladder safety, and the incorporation of risk management plans.

A2.2.3c Level II Ground level Activities: A minimum of eight (8) hours of ground level activities that include curriculum on building appropriate lifelines and facilitating participant activities that provide for understanding and trust of lifeline equipment.

A2.2.3d Level II Off Ground Activities (six feet or more above ground level): A minimum of twenty (20) hours off ground 7/12 – 12/12 & 12/12+ pitched roof climbing curriculum that includes building participant understanding and trust of lifeline equipment. This category of training should also include instruction on how to facilitate training on self rescue process from true vertical suspension.

A2.2.3e Participant Rescue Training: A minimum of four (4) hours of participant rescue training curriculum.

A2.2.4 The training organization must provide program participants with appropriate documentation of training curriculum completed with a copy of the class manual and syllabus. All participants who have completed Level II curriculum, passed level II skills and knowledge testing and provided appropriate documentation of field and supervised training related experience must be provided a certification document or card by the *certifying body*.

A2.2.5 Certified Level II Practitioner must be trained in and capable of carrying out site specific first aid procedures and/or protocols.

A2.2.6 All Certified Level II Practitioners must work within the framework of a lifeline access building assessment training program directed by a certified Level III Program Administrator.

A2.2.7 The duration for Level II Instructor certification is for three (3) years.

A2.2.8 Level II Practitioner recertification process will include either 1) One hundred fifty (150) hours of Level I program training delivery and the documentation of Twenty four (24) hours of Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) training along with successful completion of a written knowledge test; or 2) retake Level II training and pass a written knowledge and skills test.

A2.2.9 An experienced practitioner may "challenge in" to a Level II certified status. This process requires that the Level II applicant present a portfolio documenting two hundred (200) hours of Level I program training delivery, two hundred (200) hours of *practical field experience*, eighty (80) hours of training and pass both written knowledge and skills testing that meet Level II standards. Twenty-four (24) hours of the eighty (80) hours of Level II training can be completed as self-study provided that the material covered is consistent with Level I, & II curriculum and documented within a personal training portfolio as proof of completion.

A2.2.10 Written knowledge test must meet Level II training standards and be passed with a score of at least 80%.

A2.2.11 All applicants must successfully complete a practical skills test that complies with Level II standards in order to receive certification.

A2.3 Level III Practitioner / Program Administrator

A2.3.1 All participants must have successfully obtained a Level II Instructor status prior to beginning Level III Administrator training.

A2.3.2 The minimum age for certification as a Program Administrator is 25.

A2.3.3 A minimum number of content appropriate training and field related experience hours must be completed for full Level III certification. Trainings may exceed time minimums in order to cover specific vendor and/or equipment manufacturer recommendations.

A2.3.4 Full Level III Certification: Thirty (30) hours of Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) program management training and three hundred (300) hours of Level I class instruction to level I trainees is required, sixty (60) of which must be program site specific. Training hours must be consistent with Level III curriculum and documented within a personal training portfolio as proof of completion.

A2.3.5 The training organization must provide program participants with appropriate documentation of training curriculum completed with a copy of the class manual and syllabus. All participants who have completed Level III curriculum, passed level III skills and knowledge testing and provided appropriate documentation of field and class instruction related experience must be provided a certification document or card by the *certifying body*.

A2.3.6 Certified Level III Practitioner must be trained in and capable of carrying out site specific first aid procedures and/or protocols.

A2.3.7 Certified Rope Accessed Building Assessment Program Administrator must be able to supervise all aspects of the training program operations.

A2.3.8 A Rope Accessed Building Assessment Program Administrator must be capable of developing program specific policies and procedures, effectively communicating them to program personnel and ensuring that they are followed.

A2.3.9 A Rope Accessed Building Assessment Program Administrator must be capable of developing Practitioner training programs as well as in-service trainings on site and program specific operating procedures.

A2.3.10 The duration for Level III Program Administrator certification is for Five (5) years.

A2.3.11 Level III Practitioner recertification process will include a minimum of three hundred (300) hours of direct Rope Accessed Building Assessment training program administrative related activities and thirty (30) hours of Personal Fall Arrest System Program Management training.

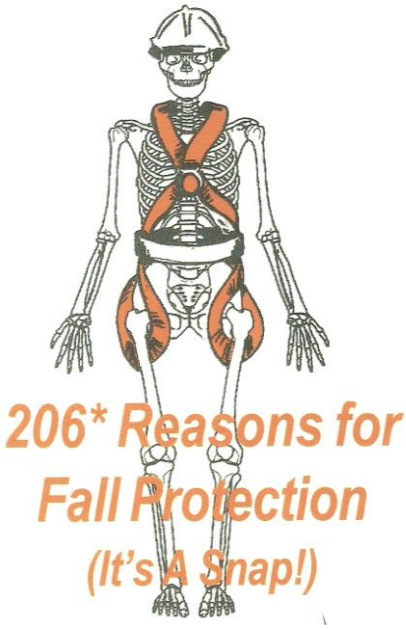
A2.3.12 An experienced practitioner may "challenge in" to a Level III certified status. This process requires that the Level III applicant present a portfolio documenting three hundred (300) hours of Level I program training delivery, two hundred (200) hours of *practical field experience*, eighty (80) hours of general PFAS training, thirty (30) hours of PFAS program management training and pass both written knowledge and skills testing that meet Level III standards. All training material completed must be consistent with Level I, II, & III curriculum and documented within a personal training portfolio as proof of completion.

A2.3.13 Written knowledge test must meet Level III training standards and be passed with a score of at least 80%.

A2.3.14 All applicants must successfully complete a practical skills test that complies with Level III standards in order to receive certification.

Avoiding The Rubber Stamp

It is no secret among other work at height professions that the implementation of practitioner standards is a critical foundation component to industry wide reductions in personal risk. ACRABAT practitioner standards are the result of efforts that span sixty years of process consideration, practice, research and reform that has evolved within the pages of a working document. Working / living documents (like the US Constitution) evolve with the people they were created for. Far too many training programs (like the Property & Casualty Adjuster Licensing programs) stop evolving the second that their outline is created. Such programs symbolize little more than a rubber stamp of simple completion because they lack progressive insight to the topic they address. The consequence of the rubber stamp for front line workers is certain error and height related errors are all too often of an irreversible nature. With one hand on the pulse of our industry, ACRABAT practitioner standards provide the guarantee that our work at height training process will always match program content to present need.



ACRABAT Questions:

Q: Is ACRABAT an advocate of additional Dept. of Labor / OSHA regulation of the Building Inspection Trades Industry?

No, in fact, ACRABAT believes that our work at height problems are the product of our own disorganized strategy and lack of communication, therefore best resolved internally. Our risk management needs are unique and cannot be simply lumped into that of the construction industry. We are more than capable of implementing our own answers, additional governmental involvement will only slow down and dilute our solution process.

Q: Who runs ACRABAT and how are membership dues allocated?

ACRABAT is chaired by the leaders of the Building Inspection Trades Industry with either a need for and/or expertise in the development of work at height risk management programming. ACRABAT is not a profit generating organization. All contributions, membership fees and additionally generated income will be applied to the ongoing research and development of process designed to decrease the threat of personal injury for field inspection technicians. To put it in its most simplest terms, ACRABAT is an association of our industry for our industry.

Q: Will ACRABAT provide Personal Fall Arrest System Certification Training?

No, ACRABAT is an organization that provides accreditation to established Building Inspection Trades PFAS training programs. Accreditation is a process of review for verification that a program complies with the association's standards for practitioner skills and process. ACRABAT accreditation program will accredit professional vendors who will in turn be approved for providing training to field technicians, instructors and other program managers. Training companies that can effectively demonstrate compliance with ACRABAT practitioner standards will be placed on a list of approved member vendors.

Q: Why does Level I Field Technician Certification require 16 hours of formalized training when the Insurance Industry standard for claims adjusters is only 8.

Building Inspection PFAS program efficiency has come a long way in the past couple of years with respect to how much material can be safely addressed in a single 8 hour day. Several programs that we have looked at have become very good at keeping all of their participants actively involved with very little wait time. Even so, the amount of critical data that must be addressed to construct a solid foundation of understanding for our field adjusters is simply too much to be accomplished in 8 hours. Individual Building Inspection trades will continue to require whatever amount of training they deem necessary until they see fit to modify their position. We support all of their risk management momentum however, our position will remain within the theatre of the best process based on the most accurate information available. Please keep in mind that most other work at height industries require no less than 40 hours of formalized training for a very similar Level I status.

Behold the Mighty GriGri

Quite possibly one of Petzl's greatest creations for rope access work that unfortunately tends to be the most misunderstood and misused. Roof Inspection technicians use them both as an ascending and as a descending device even though they fall square into the category of a "descender" yet according to the manufacturer this is not wherein the problem lies. While descenders (as the name should imply) simplify the act of descending, ascenders (like rope grabs) simplify the process of moving up an inclined surface life line. Both rope grab and GriGri can be used interchangeably to either ascend or descend a steep slope depending on the type of additional hardware, technique and / or upper body strength that the climber has or employs. While all seasoned roof inspectors know that hands free operation is critical for obtaining accurate roof scope, not all life line hardware is designed to be used in a hands free fashion. Read the Petzl GriGri care and use instructions and you will find that the use of this descender requires that at least one hand must control 10-11mm rope exiting the rope port at all times. **PLEASE REMEMBER: Improper use of equipment is the primary cause of lifeline failure. Carefully read and follow all manufacturers product information on appropriate care and use.**

Hello,

My name is Kevin Kramer, co-founder and Vice-Chair of ACRABAT as well as the Program Director for Catastrophe Career Specialties LLC located in Montgomery, Texas. True leaders within our industry need no additional encouragement for reducing risk and liability on the worksite as they are confronted with such issues on a daily basis. My work as a PFAS trainer has provided me with the type of insight that can only be found in the repetition of running forty plus classes for hundreds of participants at a professional training facility every year. Let me be the first to express that the need for this type of training for our entire industry far exceeds the limits that I alone can provide. ACRABAT represents our work at height risk management resource that is already being utilized with great success by individuals and companies alike. The efforts of this professional organization cannot be duplicated at an individual level for any price yet your cost for incorporating the value of such order amounts to little more than simple support:

- Recognize ACRABAT training certificates for the high standards of achievement they represent.
- Encourage ACRABAT approved PFAS programs to your Field Reps who seek work at height risk management training.
- Seek ACRABAT accreditation for your own Personal Fall Arrest System training program.
- Contact ACRABAT to discuss opportunities for joining our member board.
- Go to our website at www.acrabat.org to register for an associate or corporate membership.

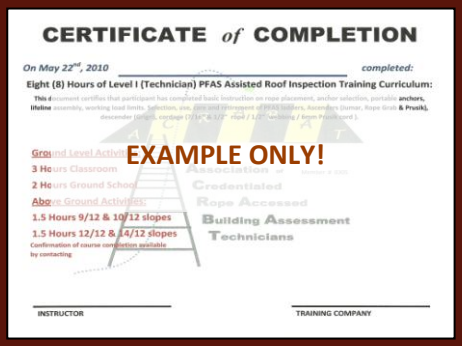
Member Benefits Include:

- Professional recognition within your job and industry
- Demonstrated dedication to reducing personal risk and liability.
- Complete first and all emerging editions of ACRABAT "PFAS assisted Building Inspection Risk Management Practices" handbook.
- Bi-Annual *"Curator"* newsletters for your field technicians.
- Updates on emerging products, technical information, narratives outlining patterns of Injury, regulatory issues, events and activities.

Fall Fatality Insight

The Us Department of Labor indicates that in 2008 there were 237 combined work related fatalities attributed to falls from ladders and roofing systems. Take the time to read the narratives that correlate to these accidents and you will learn a few things about avoiding such risk:

- Most falls originate during transition process from ladder to roof or roof to ladder.
- Over half of the falls occurred as a result of distinctly different reasons (i.e. Improper ladder selection or use, tripped, loose granules, wet slippery surface…).
- No fall fatalities attributed to Personal Fall Arrest System Assisted roof access that complied with OSHA, ANSI and Product manufacturers recommendations for equipment care, selection and use!



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