

Registered Fire Protection Technician (RFPT) Standards of Practice (SoP) Update

Report on the Fire Protection Symposium held May 17, 2017

RFPTs, fire protection company owners, managers and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) joined ASTTBC staff on May 17 at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey to review the draft RFPT Standards of Practice (SoP). A fantastic turnout of over 50 participants including 11 AHJs, 17 business owners/managers and 12 RFPTs, plus representatives of other stakeholder groups shared their perspectives and provided constructive feedback on the SoP. The feedback and recommendations from the symposium combined with other valuable input previously submitted by e-mail has been used to prepare the final version of the SoP.



Greg Miller, LLB, P.Eng. Lindsay Kenney LLP speaking about the importance of Standards of Practice and the need to be clear, accurate and thorough.

Many participants commented that the symposium was the first event in many years that brought together the main stakeholder groups to share opinions and to have meaningful discussion on key issues. Throughout the day many questions were asked and opinions provided on issues such as:

1. When must an RFPT notify the AHJ of problems found during a test or inspection?
2. Is it possible to have the names and contact information of the AHJ in various municipalities posted on the Fire Protection page of the ASTTBC website?
3. What are the critical conditions that would require marking a RED X on the tag?
4. Should the scope of work for each endorsement be included in the SoP?
5. Should a description or example of a deficiencies report be included in the SoP?
6. What test or inspection conditions would require an RFPT to punch the PASS and the ADDITIONAL WORK REQUIRED columns but not to red X a tag?
7. How could the relationship and communication between Building Owner, AHJ, RFPT and the Fire Protection Service Company be improved?
8. To what extent are RFPTs aware that when they stamp tags, inspection forms and reports that these are legal documents to which the RFPT may be held accountable in a court of law?
9. How long should RFPTs keep a record of the work they have done as evidence to defend against a complaint?
10. The time required for a fire protection service company to submit the report to the building owner or agent is beyond the control of the RFPT. The proposed SoP specifies that a reasonable time for processing reports is one week for the RFPT to submit the report to the company and two weeks for the service company to submit the report to the building owner or agent. Is this a realistic and achievable schedule for preparing and submitting reports?

11. What is the definition of maintenance?
12. What is the scope of repair work that an RFPT can do (if any)?
13. What software is suitable for RFPTs to digitally sign reports?
14. What is the most suitable location at a building to provide AHJs access to fire protection testing and inspection reports?

In addition to the discussions that provided excellent suggestions for improving the SoP, the participants were asked to vote for their preferred format of tags used on fire protection equipment or systems and preferred label for commercial kitchen exhaust cleaning. The majority of votes were in favor of the tag below on the left for fire protection equipment or systems and the stick-on label below on the right for commercial kitchen exhaust cleaning.

 (Tag Front Side)											
FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT OR SYSTEM	PASS*	ADDITIONAL WORK REQUIRED**									
Portable Fire Extinguisher (EX)											
Emergency Lighting Unit (EM)											
Fire Alarm System (AL)											
Sprinkler/Standpipe System (WA)											
Fire Pump (FP)											
Generator System (GS)											
Smoke Control System (SM)											
Pre-engineered Suppression System (SP-P)											
Custom-engineered Suppression System (SP-C)											
Fire Alarm system verification (VI)											
*The equipment or system should function as intended. **See report when "additional work required" is punched.											
RFPT Stamp and Initials	Serial # or Description										
	NEXT SERVICE DUE: YYYY MM DD										
	DO NOT REMOVE THIS TAG										
THIS EQUIPMENT WAS INSPECTED AND OR TESTED ON:											
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022						

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN EXHAUST SYSTEM AT:											
COMPONENT	PASS*	ADDITIONAL WORK REQUIRED**									
Hoods											
Ducts											
Vents											
Fans											
Filters											
Drip Cup											
*The system component was cleaned, inspected / tested and should function as intended. **See report when "ADDITIONAL WORK REQUIRED" is punched.											
RFPT Stamp and Initials	Serial # or Description										
	NEXT SERVICE DUE: YYYY MM DD										
	DO NOT REMOVE THIS LABEL										
THIS EQUIPMENT WAS CLEANED, INSPECTED AND TESTED:											
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022						

Next Steps

In the first week of June 2017, the SoP sub-committee will provide their final comments on the SoP. The document will be reviewed by ASTTBC legal counsel, then submitted for approval by the Fire Protection Certification Board (FPCB), the Practice Review Board (PRB) and finally to the ASTTBC Council. The anticipated date to begin implementing the RFPT Standards of Practice is October 1, 2017.

Thank you!

Thank you very much to all who have contributed to the SoP. It has been a long time in the making and we appreciate your input and hard work.