

# Certification



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification

*Third-party certification means that an independent organization has reviewed the process of a “product” and has independently determined that the “final product” complies with specific standards for safety, quality or performance.*

Most every home inspection association in Canada, as well as many in the USA, self-certifies their members. Likewise, it appears that in many cases the association often promotes and delivers their own, in some cases mandatory or favoured courses to certify their members. Viewing this from an outsider’s perspective raises the question of independence. It can also raise the question if a claim of bias could be a factor.

The NHICC primarily has a large contingent of seasoned and well experienced home inspectors that have also raised similar questions through their collective experience with home inspection association membership.

The primary purpose of a professional certification program is on providing an *“independent”* assessment of the knowledge, skills and/or competencies required for the competent performance of the occupation. 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification also creates *“transparency”* in the certification process. Certification is also intended to measure and provide reassurance through ongoing renewal requirements. A primary goal of certification is validation through testing and through fairly rigorous requirement for a high standard.

Additionally, there must be autonomy in governance of the certification program and protection against bias or undue influence from self-interest in the parent organization.

The assessments conducted by the NHICC are **NOT** directly linked to specific courses or other education/training programs or specific provider. Previous independent studies by a private management consultant helped identify a number of education and training providers that they *“independently”* deem as *“accredited”*.

Public safety and the increasing number of unregulated inspectors in the home inspection field support the need for the values and benchmarks established in the National Certification Program. This includes ongoing review and assessment realizing that certification must undergo change as licensing and regulation make changes to the marketplace. From our perspective periodic recertification is required to ensure continuing competence. We believe it simply helps alleviate *“risk”* and provides an independent resource to offer *“confidentiality”* and remove any bias that may exist.

Simply 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification provides an objective review and performance free from both economic demands of the associations and the internal pressure and competitive nature of associations of claiming who the dominant leaders are in the home inspection sector.