

National Home Inspector Certification Council

Notes on Accreditation

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the process a certification body uses to determine whether the courses or programs offered by a training provider meet some or all of the skill and knowledge requirements of the “certification requirements”. It also involves an assessment of a provider’s ability to provide a consistent standard of training.

What is 3rd party recognition?

Simply – an independent (autonomous) review by another professional body.

What are the conflicts that arise from certification and accreditation being controlled by associations?

The potential for a conflict of interest arises when one’s duty to make decisions in the public’s interest is compromised by competing interests of a professional, personal or private nature, including but not limited to pecuniary interests.

In order to remain truly autonomous and avoid a conflict of interest the decision for certification must provide direct protection of essential certification decisions from undue influence. Certification programs must satisfy the requirement for autonomy of the governing body in a number of ways. These include:

- 1. The certifying program must show that the governance structure, policies, and procedures that have been established protect against undue influence that could compromise the integrity of the certification process.*
- 2. The governance structure, policies, and procedures must provide for autonomy in decision making regarding important aspects of the certification program such as eligibility standards; the development, administration, and scoring of the assessment instruments; selection of personnel; and operational processes.*
- 3. The development, administration, and scoring of assessment instruments must promote the purpose of the certification program.*
- 4. To avoid conflicts of interest between certification and education functions, the certification agency must not also be responsible for accreditation of educational or training programs or courses of study leading to the certification.*

Source: Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)

- 1. “The certification body shall not offer or provide training, or aid others in the preparation of such services, unless it demonstrates how training is independent of the evaluation and certification of persons to ensure that confidentiality and impartiality are not compromised.”*

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2. *“The certification body shall employ or contract enough people with the necessary education, training, technical knowledge and experience to perform certification functions relating to the type, range and volume of work performed, under a responsible management.”*

Source – PCBAP: Criteria, Procedures and Conditions for Accreditation and Accredited Personnel Certification Bodies CAN-P-9 (ISO 17024)

Based on the above “guidelines”, the NHICC is pursuing a course of action of becoming recognized as a “certification body”. As such it recognizes that the certification program must be structured and governed in ways that are appropriate for the profession, occupation, role, or skill, that ensures autonomy in decision making over essential certification activities.

Thus the National Admissions Board of the NHICC “recognizes” certain training provider’s course training, based on their prior submission and commitment to sustain and maintain course and program content that follow the National Occupational Standards for Home & Property Inspectors.

Note: This does not include an “official” endorsement of the quality or specific background of the actual trainer.