

Draft Media Release

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THE TESTING, ADJUSTING, AND BALANCING BUREAU (TABB) RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FROM THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ANSI)

Washington, D.C., January 7, 2009. On December 9, 2008, TABB received official accreditation from ANSI, the organization that oversees national norms and guidelines that directly impact business in almost every sector. ANSI accreditation is also meant to strengthen the U.S. marketplace position in the global economy while helping to assure the safety and health of consumers and the protection of the environment.

TABB was developed by the National Energy Management Institute Committee (NEMIC), a not-for-profit corporation sponsored by the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association (SMWIA) and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA). TABB runs the TAB (testing, adjusting and balancing) certification program, which ensures that HVAC systems operate at the highest standards and with the greatest efficiency and effectiveness at every stage of an indoor environmental retrofit - or to new building specification.

With ANSI accreditation, TABB enhances its reputation as a leading resource for certification in the HVAC industry. Unlike other organizations whose current certification programs are ineligible for ANSI accreditation, such as AABC and NEBB, TABB Certification standards and procedures for certification are set by a policy-making body – the International Certification Board (ICB) of NEMIC, with SMWIA as the training arm, and the International Training Institute as the testing body, and TABB as the certification body. Because TABB affiliate offices are found in Connecticut, Chicago (IL), New York, Indiana, Orange County, San Francisco, Saint Louis, and Los Angeles, this separation of focus between establishing certification criteria and the testing and renewal of certification ensures that TABB Certification administration and policy setting is free from the kind of regionalized industry politics that can keep qualified contractors from becoming certified. This can lead to shortages in qualified contractors and restrict the bidder pool, which in turn can lead to higher construction costs.

ANSI accreditation opens the door to further opportunity for TABB certified technicians, supervisors, and contractors. According to the ANSI web site, the organization's mission is to enhance both the global competitiveness of U.S. business and the U.S. quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity. ANSI endorsement of this nature means that TABB certified professionals have mastered specific HVAC industry requirements that are accepted and approved by an organization whose benchmarks for consumer safety and U.S. business best practice are recognized throughout the world.

“Many people ask the question who certifies the certifier,” noted John Hamilton TABB COO. “TABB now has an answer ANSI which follows ISO standard 17024. Across the country TABB has gained ground in getting specified as an equal to NEBB and AABC.” Hamilton concludes that ANSI accreditation gives greater recognition to TABB contractors, who now gain acceptance from engineers and specifiers as an equivalent to NEBB or AABC. “Add TABB to your construction specifications to expand the bidder pool,” Hamilton states, “and increase the quality of the job engineers, specifiers, and building owners receive for all their TAB work.”

For more information on TABB Certification, please call 800.458.6525 or 703-299-5646. You can also read more about the organization by visiting www.tabbcertified.org.

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