

Acceptance Technician Frequently Asked Questions

What is Acceptance Testing?

Acceptance testing is one part of a multi-stage compliance program that ensures newly constructed buildings and new construction in existing buildings conforms to energy-efficiency standards contained in Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Acceptance testing consists of a series of construction inspections and functional tests for different types of mechanical and electrical systems. These inspections and tests ensure that applicable systems are installed and operate correctly.

Why This Rule, and Why Now?

Acceptance testing has been around since 2005, but only for new buildings and retrofits impacting over 50% of the existing luminaires or ballasts. The 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (California Code Regulations, Title 24, Part 6) require more acceptance testing and establish a criteria for what skills a state certified acceptance technician needs to have.

What spaces will be affected?

The 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (California Code Regulations, Title 24, Part 6) states that the following commercial buildings will have to comply with new acceptance testing requirements:

- 1) All newly constructed commercial buildings (no previous occupancy)
- 2) Any addition
- 3) Any alteration that adds new equipment to an existing space (retrofit) that modifies more than 10% of the existing luminaires or ballasts, or any retrofit of < 40 ballasts or luminaires.

What has to be done for a space to be acceptance tested?

While the acceptance test process is a separate and independent process, Title 24 regulations now require that a Commissioning Report be completed and provided to the Building Owner before a building occupancy certificate can be provided. A lighting control "acceptance test" report is required as part of this larger commissioning report.

If I am an electrical contractor, can I also acceptance test my own work?

Yes, as long as you are a state certified acceptance testing contractor and the work is performed only by a state licensed acceptance technician. For CALCTP we are identifying these as CALCTP-**AT** or CALCTP acceptance testing employer.

Do I have to be a CALCTP certified contractor to be a CALCTP-AT Contractor?

No, you do not have to be a CALCTP certified contractor for installations to be eligible to become a CALCTP-AT Contractor.

If I'm an electrical contractor and I don't have an acceptance technician on staff what do I do?

Per state law, after July 1, 2014 if the project impacts the spaces mentioned above, a building occupancy certificate will not be issued unless the control system(s) are acceptance tested. Thus, you would have to hire an outside lighting controls acceptance technician to do this work.

Who can become an acceptance testing employer?

Any employer who is eligible under Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code this includes architects, professional engineers, and C-10 contractors.

How long is the CALCTP-AT Employer Course?

The course is 6 hours.

Who can be a CALCTP Acceptance Test Technician?

Eligibility is limited to persons who have at least 3 years of verifiable experience in lighting controls and building systems in the following professions:

- Certified General Electricians (without CALCTP Installer certification) – must have a current, valid State Certification Number for general electricians that starts with E and ends with G: E + 6-digits + G.
- Electrical Contractors – as defined by individual Candidates who have a valid C-10 electrical contractor license in their name.
- Professional Engineers – as defined by Candidates who have received a bachelor's degree in engineering from an accredited college or university.
- Certified Commissioning Professionals – As defined by Candidates who have received the following certifications¹:
 - Certified Commissioning Professional offered by the Building Commissioning Association
 - Certified Building Commissioning Professional offered by the Association of Energy Engineers
 - Commissioning Process Management Professional offered by American Society of Heating Air Conditioning Engineers

Candidates must have experience in the majority of following areas to be eligible:

- occupancy and photosensors for both indoor and outdoor applications;
- low and line voltage dimming systems;
- demand response control systems, including Energy Management Control System with Demand Response functionality/modules;
- track lighting systems, including current limiting devices;
- time-based scheduling systems including automatic time switches, programmable lighting control panels, and part-night lighting control devices.

How long is the CALCTP-AT Technical Course?

For those who hold a CALCTP installer technical certification, the CALCTP-AT Technical course is 16 hours in length and is a mix of lecture, labs, and a final exam. For those without the CALCTP installer certification the course is roughly 30 hours. This includes courses on California Codes and Standards, and Lighting Control Systems.

I was an acceptance technician before can I continue doing this work?

No, because of inconsistencies in the quality of acceptance testing, the 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards outlined new requirements for the skills and training that is needed to become an acceptance test technician or an acceptance test contractor. These State of California rules require that an individual must be licensed by a state certified acceptance technician provider.

Where do I go for more information?

You can receive more information on the CALCTP website at: www.calctp.org/acceptance-technicians or by emailing CALCTP at info@calctp.org.

¹ Certifications were circulated to commissioning professionals and were identified as the most common within the industry.