

FACT SHEET ON THE CERTIFIED SURVEY TECHNICIAN (CST) PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The NSPS CST (Certified Survey Technician) program is a national certification program for survey technicians (based on experience and examination for field and office) at four levels (Level I; entry level, Level II; instrument/computer operator, Level III; party chief/chief computer operator, and Level IV; chief of parties/office manager). The examinations are available in both paper and online formats. Information on exam administration is available for interested organizations and individuals under the "Proctor" tab on the CST website. The program is recognized by the US Department of Labor and is currently being used by the surveying profession in all fifty states.

BENEFITS FOR AND USES BY FIRMS

- Sets a standard for your technical staff
- Can be used as a hiring requirement
- Can be used as qualification points for hiring decision making
- Can be incorporated in your QA/QC Program
- Can be used as a career ladder which creates a promotional tool within your firm or agency (career development)
- Can be used in conjunction with training
- Raises the bar and creates healthy competition
- Creates a better qualified staff – more production - more valuable employees– you can pay your staff more – you can attract better staff – your job becomes easier
- Better qualified staff – less mistakes – reputation improves – more business
- Can be used as a contract requirement for professional service providers/consultants
- Can be used as a contract requirement for construction contracts
- Can be used as a pre-qualification requirement in A/E procurement (Brook's Act)
- Can be used as a contract requirement for professional survey services contracts
- Improves confidence in services procured

BENEFITS FOR TECHNICIANS

- Recognition by Peers and Employers
- Personal Pride - Achieving Certification
- Pay – CST's make about 10% more
- Career and Employment opportunities improve - "CST Preferred" and "CST Required"
- Prepares you for other professional Exams
- CST Program compliments training
- Skills will improve – making advancement possible
- Certification improves image of survey technicians within the agency