



Cycletime Tips - General

Volume 10: Plastics Technologist Recertification Process

By John McDonnell

Many questions are asked about the Plastics Technologist Certification Program and Recertification Process initiated by the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE)¹. General Polymer's technical service representatives were asked for thoughts on how we could help get this information out to the industry. We agree that there is a strong need for technical education, and the Plastics Technologist Certification Program is a step in the right direction. Realizing that this is a new program that might not fill all the current needs, it is nevertheless a very good start.

What is the Recertification Process?

The Recertification Process is an ongoing professional growth effort, which encompasses the three- year certification period. Once certified, the practitioner must choose one of two methods for Recertification: 1) accumulate 36 credits through participation in professional development activities during the three-year period, or, 2) retake the examination after the three year period. Recertification credits are earned via participation in: SPE sponsored national, regional, sectional or divisional education activities, corporate instruction, adult education courses, home study, presentations and papers, part-time teaching, patents, corporate presentations and other committee-approved special activities.

A Recertification Credit Journal will be forwarded to each certified technologist for record keeping. The journal contains instructions and tear-out activity forms for proper validation. An annual fee of \$25 will be charged by IPC/SPE to cover recording and administrative costs of the recertification program.

How the Certification Program and Recertification Process benefit a company?

- They encourage employees to review concepts and fundamentals that transcend their everyday work experience.
- They encourage an employee to actively support and attend in-house training programs.
- Recertification requirements ensure active participation in seminars, workshops, RETECs and ANTECs.
- Formal credentials and recognition within the industry can boost self-esteem and increase morale.
- Companies enhance their competitive position and credibility when their employees attain certification.

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