

CAHPI NATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROJECT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1) Why has CAHPI developed and promoted the National Certification?

CAHPI did not develop the National Certification Program. It was a response to the CMHC study in 1996, which identified inconsistencies in home inspections across Canada.

2) What or who generated interest in the national Certification Program?

Increased demand for home inspections and the lack of qualified practitioners lead to a number of consumer concerns. (Inconsistencies in the quality and level of service provided) The Canadian public, through CMHC, demanded some level of competence and training.

3) Why is CAHPI the organization that has taken on this project?

CAHPI is the organization that was created by the Canadian home inspection industry to undertake this project.

4) What gives CAHPI the authority to lead this project?

Through the National Initiative, which has the support of the Ministry of Housing, CMHC and HRSDC, the home inspection industry was encouraged to establish one umbrella organization to speak on the behalf of the Canadian private building inspection profession at the national level. This organization is CAHPI.

5) What role does the Government of Canada have in this process?

They have provided encouragement and financial support to accomplish these goals.

6) Are other Home Inspection groups excluded from this program?

No. Any member of any inspection group is invited to apply for National Certification.

7) Are the rules and criteria the same for members of CAHPI and non-members?

Yes.

8) What is the process for Existing Home Inspector Certification, especially RHI members. Will they be grandfathered?

No. Every applicant's credentials will be evaluated against the requirements of the National Certification Program.

9) If I am an RHI, why and how would it benefit me to apply for the National Certificate?

The National Certification will be a publicly-recognized credential in addition to your provincial qualification. It is reasonable to expect the public demand will be for National Certificate Holders, at a minimum. Having both designations will make your service more attractive to the public. The various relocation services and other stakeholders, across the country, are expected to use only National Certificate Holders by 2008.

10) Why would I become an RHI, instead of becoming a National Certificate Holder?

While fees have not yet been established, the most cost-effective and convenient way to attain and maintain your designation as a National Certificate Holder will be through membership in one of the provincial associations.

11) How will experienced inspectors who are not members of a CAHPI association be tested and evaluated?

Applicants will all undergo a background review and will have to complete at least one Test Inspection with Peer Review (TIPR). All National Certificate Holders will have to complete one TIPR every five years. Non-members will be evaluated according to the same weighted formula that is used for members.

12) What is a Test Inspection with Peer Review?

Each applicant will be required to inspect a house with known deficiencies and deliver both a verbal and a written report on the home to an evaluator. The written report must meet the requirements of the Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics.

13) I've been inspecting homes for fifteen years. Why do I have to have a background review and Test Inspection with Peer Review?

In order to establish a consistent level of competence among home inspectors, all applicants will be required to follow the same process.

14) How do the examiners become qualified to do their work? Who tests them?

The examiners will be National Certificate Holders, very experienced, respected members of their profession and will be tested by the Chief Examiner.

15) What are the fees for certification?

The fees for certification have not been established yet but will be posted on the CAHPI website at the appropriate time.

16) Will the fees for CAHPI members be different for non-members?

Yes. There will be a higher cost for non-members since a portion of membership dues have already been invested by CAHPI members in good standing in the development of the program.

17) What are the challenges for CAHPI in dealing with non-members?

Membership in one of the provincial CAHPI association already includes a portion of the background review required by the National Certification Program. For non-member applicants, the National Certification Council has an additional review to complete.

18) What is the National Certification Authority and who are members?

The National Certification Authority is an arms-length body whose mandate is to manage and control the certification and accreditation processes. Members of this 'Authority' are appointed by the CAHPI Board of Directors.

19) What is the National Certification Council and who are members?

The National Certification Council will undertake certification assessments and make recommendations to the National Certification Authority as to what stage an individual fits within the National Certification Model.

The National Certification Council is appointed by the National Certification Authority and its membership is composed of home inspectors and respected members of the community. In the future, the National Certificate Holders will elect the home inspector members of the Authority.

20) What is the National Accreditation Council and who are members?

The National Accreditation Council is responsible for reviewing and granting accreditation to training providers and/or associations for their courses and programs.

The National Accreditation Council is appointed by the National Certification Authority and its membership is composed of home inspectors and respected members of the community. In the future, the National Certificate Holders will elect the home inspector members of the Authority.

21) Is there an appeal process if an application is denied?

Yes, appeals can be made to the National Certification Authority.

22) Will part of my membership dues for my provincial association go to funding the National Certification promotion, even if I don't want it to?

No. The National Certification Program is intended to be self-supporting.

23) Where does the funding for National Certification Program come from?

The initial and on-going funds have been provided by various Government agencies, by CAHPI membership dues and outside sources.

24) Where do the TIPR home(s) come from?

Examiners have an established process for finding homes as required.

25) Is there an appeal process if a TIPR is not passed?

Yes. Appeals can be filed with the Chief Examiner.

26) Will the examiners have to be CAHPI members?

No. Examiners will have to be National Certificate Holders and approved by the Chief Examiner.

27) Will National Certificate Holders be required to carry Errors and Omissions insurance?

The issue of E&O insurance is addressed by the CAHPI provincial associations, not by the National Certification Program.

28) Since the National Certification Program was initiated by a CMHC study, will CMHC be promoting this program?

CMHC has supported the development of the program.

29) Is the National Certification Program within the by-laws of CAHPI?

Yes, in general it is. Some minor amendments will be needed for full compatibility.

30) Are commercial property inspections covered by this program?

No, this program is targeted at residential properties.