



By Design Talking Points

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MnDOT to Require Certified Survey Technicians on Job-Sites Bolton & Menk responds with a company-wide training and testing program

Bolton & Menk, Inc. has recently taken the initiative to organize a company-wide training and testing program for surveying technicians to become certified through the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS).

Bolton & Menk held the six-hour-long exam at a testing center on February 7, 2007 and is proud to have 23 CSTs on staff today. The results of this comprehensive survey exam nearly tripled the number of CSTs in the State of Minnesota as of the February 2007 testing date.



Bolton & Menk surveying staff taking the CST exam

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) made the announcement that, beginning in August 2007, they would require Certified Survey Technicians (CST) on projects where contractors are responsible for staking. This is a State quality control initiative and is similar to the long-standing technician certification requirements for construction inspection. At the time of the announcement, Bolton & Menk began a training program for staff survey technicians to assist them in preparing for the certification exam.

Some of the topics covered in these training sessions were: field equipment and instruments, survey computations, control points and first aid and safety. Each session was directly related to work elements that made up the exam.

Bolton & Menk will now use these test results as a part of professional development plans for future employees and current non-certified employees. All technicians on staff will begin to work toward the goal of becoming Certified Survey Technicians.

NSPS sponsors the comprehensive national certification program for survey technicians. The program, initiated in 1986, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as part of the National Apprenticeship Program. The Survey Technician Certification

Board, which administers this program, recognizes the importance of technicians to the surveying and mapping profession.

The goals of the certification program are to:

- Recognize the important contribution that technicians provide to the surveying and mapping profession
- Provide credentials to technicians
- Identify those who have achieved specific technical competencies
- Provide a career ladder for technicians
- Provide firms who support and utilize certified technicians a way to evaluate applicants and an opportunity to promote the fact that their technical staff is certified

This four-level certification program for surveying technicians throughout the United States indicates official recognition by NSPS that a person has demonstrated that he or she is competent to perform surveying tasks at a specified technical level.

Each comprehensive survey exam included the following:

- Types of Surveys
- Field Equipment & Instruments
- Survey Computations
- Control Points: Horizontal and Vertical
- Field Notes
- Plan Reading and Preparation
- First Aid and Safety
- Drafting / CAD
- Electronic Instruments
- Survey History
- Principles of the Profession
- Office Operations
- Supervisory Skills

Talking Point

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