

July 7, 2010

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) Session #24

Session leader: Mike Senew

Topic: Overview of Brownfields Job Training Certifications – Advantages and issues associated with participant certification

NOTES FROM SESSION 24

Certification basics

1. A degree, license, certification, qualification, approved vendor, or graduate are all terms for what can be called a certified worker.
2. Certifications may be issued by any individual, company, government, or organization. They may be issued to individuals, products, or organizations.
3. The value of certification depends on the perception of those requiring them as a way of assuring competency and quality workmanship.
4. Certifications are backed by a set of standards, skills, experience, or knowledge required to obtain them.
5. Certifications have an associated active timeframe and renewal requirement. A certification may be for life, one year, or may require refresher training to renew. Some may simply require a registration fee to renew.
6. Governmental organizations such as OSHA may require specific certifications for workers engaged in potentially dangerous activities. State governmental organizations may require different certifications for workers in their jurisdictions. Private contractors may additionally require their own set of certifications for those working under their responsibility.

Worker certification advantages

1. Certifications set standards which define the basic level of quality, knowledge, or competency an individual has related to a specific activity.
2. Certifications can require refresher and upgrade training contributing to a workforce employing up-to-date work practices.
3. Certifications can be used to control the quality of the workforce, and enforce poor work practices by recalling certifications of incompetent workers.
4. Certifications can be used as a census mechanism in determining the supply of workers having specific skill sets.
5. Certifications can be used to locate or contact workers having specific skills and knowledge or are engaged in specific activities.
6. Certification fees can be used a way of funding any of the above activities.

Common OSHA certifications included as part of Brownfields Job Training

1. OSHA 40-Hour Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) (29CFR 1910.120(e): Required certification for all Brownfields job training grantees
2. OSHA 10-Hour Construction Industry Outreach Training (49 CFR 172.704)
3. OSHA Confined Space Entry (29 CFR 1910.146)

Common EPA certifications included as part of Brownfields Job Training

1. EPA Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) (40 CFR 745.85)
2. EPA Asbestos state and federal (40 CFR Part 763 pt c-e)

3. EPA Lead Worker state and federal
4. EPA Radon Abatement Worker state
5. EPA Mold Abatement Worker state

Other common certifications included as part of Brownfields Job Training

1. First Aid
2. Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
3. Electrical, General Construction, Carpentry
4. Ladders
5. Forklift Operator
6. Lockout/Tagout
7. Fall Protection

The above mentioned training and certifications are often accompanied by apprenticeship or internship programs. Training and certifications are also combined into the Brownfields Job Training certificate backed up by the curriculum of the entire program.

PLC member contribution:

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All Hazards Emergency Response CBNRE: The purpose of this course is to familiarize trainees to the chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, explosives, and other threats that local communities could face in the event of an accidental release or an act of bioterrorism; how members of a local community emergency response team fit into the Incident Command System (ICS); and what actions they may encounter in that role, such as hazards decontamination or critical incident stress management. 8-hours (This was initially developed for people to work at Ground Zero after 9-11, but also to be registered as part of a local emergency response team in the event of a mass casualty situation; part of local emergency response plans.)

Microbial Remediation: The purpose of this course is to acquaint trainees with the procedures and guidelines for safely cleaning up mold and mildew problems. This introductory course covers mold types, where mold can be found, pertinent regulations, removal techniques and safety procedures, and personal protective equipment. 8-hours

Additional discussion related to certifications can be found at www.ateec.org and www.brownfields-toolbox.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC session: Wednesday, July 21, 2010
 2:00 p.m. EDT

Topic: Certifications continued

Feel free to invite a guest! Those who have not previously signed up, please paste <http://tiny.cc/w41fh> in browser and complete the online form with your contact information.

OR

Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.