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ETA releases updated HOT fiber optics certifications

With technological advances in the fiber optics industry, ETA International recently released newly updated versions of the Fiber Optics Technician (FOT) and Fiber Optics Technician–Outside Plant (FOT-OSP) certifications. ETA is globally recognized as the definitive source for non-vendor-specific, third-party, industry standards-based certifications with Hands-On Testing (HOT).

ETA's Fiber Optics Technician (FOT) and Fiber Optics Technician – Outside Plant (FOT-OSP) programs have recently been updated by subject matter experts (SME's), and are ready for public distribution. Updating the competencies, hands-on testing, and knowledge examinations is necessary to certify that technicians are current with industry standards.

The use of fiber optics is not limited to home phone systems, internet access and cable television. Transportation industries, educational systems, hospitals, financial institutions, businesses, governments and militaries also use fiber optics as a connection to complex networks of physical lines and cables to connect with the outside world. As consumer demand for more bandwidth and faster connection time continues to increase, so does the demand for certified technicians.

Over 47,000 Fiber Optics professionals holding ETA certifications can be found worldwide as consultants, designers, contractors, technicians, installers, managers, and supervisors. Being an ETA-certified FOT or FOT-OSP professional gives you a competitive edge in a truly exciting and rewarding industry. The US Department of Labor predicts job growth at 13% through 2020 with average earnings of $54,290 yearly.

Fiber Optics Technicians are expected to obtain knowledge of fiber optics concepts that will allow them to be involved with designing, configuring, installing, and maintaining fiber optics systems. Technicians will also be able to test and troubleshoot a Local Area Network (LAN) system with various faults. This certification is designed for technicians, system analysts, design engineers, managers, telecommunications professionals, fusion splicers, mechanical splicers, end users, etc. The prerequisite for the Fiber Optics Technician certification is the Fiber Optics Installer, or equivalent work experience.

The Fiber Optics Technician-Outside Plant certification is designed with special emphasis on outside plant applications and standards. A FOT–OSP must be able to properly terminate, test and troubleshoot singlemode fiber optic communication systems. This includes various types of termination and troubleshooting techniques applicable to high speed laser based systems as well as to safely and completely analyze Fiber to the Home (FTTH) signatures, measure reflectance, test splitters, and identify faults in fiber optics communications and transmission cabling. The FOT-OSP should have a basic understanding of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and the National Electrical Code (NEC) and all safety conditions specific to the outside plant environment and the applicable transmission equipment.

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ETA certifications are widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases, advancements, and often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of his or her employment or status change. All ETA certifications measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors.

ETA represents the technolgy industry, from the technician and educator to the corporate institution. Widely known for electronics certification programs, ETA helps electronics technicians advance their knowledge, skills and excel in their fields, while connecting employers to qualified electronics professionals. The association's initiatives are to provide a prominent certification program of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronics standards and provides renowned professional electronics credentials.

ETA® International - Founded in 1978, Electronics Technicians Association International is a not-for-profit, professional association promoting excellence in electronics technologies through certifications. The association's initiatives are to provide a prominent certification program of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronic standards and renowned professional electronics credentials. Today, ETA has issued over 115,000 technical certifications covering more than 70 certification programs in a variety of electronics fields. The association consists of over 5,000 members, 625 Subject Matter Experts (SME's) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 1,010 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA's). (www.eta-i.org)

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