

TECH TIPS

FROM NASSCO

TECH TIPS BY NASSCO IS A BI-MONTHLY ARTICLE ON TRENDS, BEST PRACTICES AND INDUSTRY ADVICE FROM NASSCO'S TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY MEMBERSHIP PROFESSIONALS.

IS YOUR OPERATOR PACP CERTIFIED?

By NASSCO Executive Director and member Ted DeBoda, P.E.

The Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) has been used extensively for more than a decade; over 11,000 CCTV operators have been trained and certified as users. The success of this program is evident, as thousands of owners and engineers use PACP data every day to manage their collection systems and support their Capital Improvement Programs. Furthermore, many consent decrees specifically require PACP to be used for all Pipeline Inspections. We've come a long way but we still have work to do.

Consistent, accurate data is the foundation of PACP and this foundation is built on training. It is quite simple. Proper training, coupled with ongoing monitoring, improves the quality and accuracy of CCTV inspections. Unfortunately, lack of training and monitoring usually leads to just the opposite – poor and, at times, even unusable inspection data.



Visit nassco.org and click the PACP icon. Click "Search for Certified Users and Trainers". If name doesn't appear, person is generally not certified.

IS YOUR PACP DELIVERABLE, REALLY PACP?

The individual coding PACP CCTV inspections needs to be trained, and verification of this training is an important first step towards ensuring more reliable, consistent data. This is where the Certification portion of PACP comes in to play. Individuals who receive PACP training also receive Certification of this training.

This Certification is documented at NASSCO and is readily available to owners, engineers and the general public via the NASSCO web site. Thus it is very easy to verify if a CCTV operator has been through PACP training. Simply enter the operator's last name in the filed named "Certified Users & Trainers – Search by Last Name", and their name will either come up or it will not. If they are not listed, they have not been trained and are not a PACP certified operator. If you do have any doubts after checking, a simple call to NASSCO will confirm if, for example, the person was certified very recently.

ACCURATE DATA

It is in all of our best interest to make sure that individuals who are engaged in gathering PACP data are properly trained. The collection and submittal of poor data damages the reputation of our industry. Additionally, we have a responsibility to make sure

that the data is reliable enough to make the important financial decisions involved in operating our country's infrastructure.

NASSCO QUALITY STANDARDS

NASSCO's mission is to set industry standards for the assessment and rehabilitation of underground pipelines and assure the continued acceptance and growth of trenchless technologies. With your help, we can meet this mission and ensure PACP data meets the highest possible standards of quality.

We continue to make improvements to PACP. Most recently, for example, a recertification program was released for both operators and trainers to help ensure operators maintain a high level of proficiency and trainers are properly qualified to implement the program.

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For more information, please visit NASSCO's website at www.nassco.org.