Rationale for ASRC Credentialing

ASRC Culture of Excellence

- ASRC culture of excellence is what dominates ASRC’s acceptance by Responsible Agents (Authorities Having Jurisdiction)
- We assume the culture of excellence prepares members to deliver outstanding SAR services
- GTO’s and group evaluators remain primary source of candidate evaluation

ASRC Governance of Certification and Credentialing

- ASRC Credentialing Board provide independent, secondary evaluative review of certification candidates
- Best practice for evaluation of personnel (NIMS-compliant)
- The ASRC certification/credentialing governance structure provides confidence in certified personnel
- Credentialing Board effectively provide QA of candidates (and group training programs)
May 2016: ASRC BOD passed ASRC Credentialing Policy, v 1.0

Rationale:
• ASRC BOD regained authority over certifications for FTM and FTL
• Established governance comparable to similar bodies (e.g., NASAR)
• Retained regionally appropriate standards as basis
• Eliminated “self-certification” criticism

This change of policy establishes “best practice” organizational governance.

Important Caveat: There is no concern with technical skills of ASRC-certified personnel.

Important Elements of ASRC Credentialing Policy:
• Groups remain primary source of field training and evaluation of candidates
• Adoption of Position Task Books (PTBs): [These function much like a group’s existing checklists]
• Established the ASRC Credentialing Board to manage certification
• Final ASRC field credentials will require examination by an ASRC Examiner
  • ASRC Examiners represent the ASRC Credentialing Board, which in turn is overseen by the ASRC BOD
  • Written test
    • Delivered via on-line service
    • Completion and grading are validated by ASRC Credentialing Board
  • Field practical testing are designed as “spot checks”: We are still relying on GTO for primary evaluation of candidates
    • Two “subject matter blocks”: FTM has Land Nav, Search skills, Litter handling and belays, Knots
    • At least one skill area evaluated by an ASRC Examiner outside candidate’s group
Implementation of ASRC Credentialing

**Summer 2016:** ASRC Credentialing Board members were selected

**August 2016:** ASRC Credentialing Board convened
  - Chair selected
  - Board charter drafted

**September 2016:** Finalized charter, developed work plan

**October 2016:** Presented work plan to ASRC BOD
  ... working on FTM written test and practical tests ...

**March 2017:** Beta version of FTM written test ready; practical FTM testing to be piloted at AGM

**September 2017:** ASRC Annual General Meeting
  ... revise and finalize practical testing ...

**February 2018:** Issuance of ASRC FTM certification follows new review and testing procedures

**September 2018:** Issued first ASRC FTM credential attained through the Credentialing Board

**July 2019:** Beta version of FTL testing to be piloted at AGM

---

**Impact on groups**

- **ASRC-wide written test for field levels**
  - Will need to ensure group course materials align
  - Replaces current test, can begin use now

- **After GTO endorsement, request practical testing through ASRC Credentialing Board**
  - Examiners assigned and scheduled
  - Roughly half day (or less)
  - Seek to minimize schedule delays and travel inconvenience
  - Available at AGM and other multi-group events

- **Grandfathering process for transition to ASRC Credentialing Board as the singular authority to issue ASRC credentials**
How Does a GTO Implement Credentialing?

• Issue new PTBs
  • PTB design and layout accommodates group-specific requirements
  • Work with candidates to ensure previous training evaluations are not lost

• Use the on-line ASRC FTM (ready to go) and FTL written test (forthcoming)
  • GTO contacts the ASRC Credentialing Board (credentialing@asrc.net) for the

• When a PTB is complete, GTO contacts the ASRC Credentialing Board (credentialing@asrc.net) to schedule field practical examination by one or two ASRC Examiners (one Examiner must be a member of group other than the candidate’s group)
Procedures for Credentialing

Steps to taking the written test

• GTO determines Candidate is ready for the written test (or Candidate makes a request to the GTO to take written test)
• GTO contacts ASRC Credentialing Board (credentialing@asrc.net) with member/s ready to test (cc’s ACB member from candidate’s group)
• Assigned a member of the ASRC Credentialing Board to proctor the test (default is ACB chair) sends test link to Candidate (cc’s GTO on email)

Steps to Taking the Practical Test

• GTO determines Candidate has completed a Position Task Book and is ready for practical testing
• GTO contacts Credentialing Board with member/s ready to test
• GTO contacts Credentialing Board with member/s ready to test (cc’s GTO)
• Credentialing Board:
  • Works with GTO on location/plan/schedule
  • Decides on the ASRC Examiners who will be evaluators for the practical (at least one from an ASRC member-group other than the Candidate’s group)
• Minimum of Candidate/s and Examiners meet at previously determined location for evaluation
Impact of Standards Update

• Credentialing Board has been anticipating update to ASRC Training Standards, v 8.0

• Transition issues:
  • Grandfathering:
    • ASRC FTM > ASRC Field 2 (or Field Level 3 at GTO’s discretion
    • ASRC FTL > ASRC Field 1
    • GTO discretion on transferring candidate completions under Standards v. 7.2 and/or current group checklists