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How to become an Accredited Telecommunications Service Provider (ATSP)

Introduction

The intention is that customers seeking a telecommunications service provider will view ATSP accreditation as:

- their guide to competent and efficient telecommunications service providers
- their assurance that only companies that meet TESSO's stringent criteria for competencies and codes of work practice can become accredited
- evidence that all certified companies have been audited to ensure they qualify
- being assured that products and services from accredited companies will comply with best industry practice.

Companies seeking to become Accredited Telecommunications Service Providers must therefore have a background of appropriate experience, commitment to training, and compliance with recognised industry standards and codes of practice.

The accreditation is not to establish an insurance scheme or workmanship guarantee, but to provide an assurance to customers that approved service providers are committed to the use of appropriately skilled and qualified staff and the application of recognised industry standards and codes of practice. The assurance comes from the rigorous vetting process carried out by the Telecommunication Education & Skills Standards Organisation (TESSO), a member of the Electrotechnology Industry Training Organisation and the industry advisory body recognised by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

The vetting process employed by TESSO is based upon their well established APL (Assessment of Prior Learning and experience) methodology established with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority as applied to telecommunications practitioners personal skills and competencies. The process involves the assessment of evidence by a qualified senior telecommunications assessor and a moderation review of the recommendation by the TESSO Executive Officer and appropriate TESSO Board member. All decisions are subject to TESSO Board appeal and full confidentiality is assured.

How to become Accredited

Criteria relevant to accreditation are listed below together with information that must accompany accreditation applications.

Accreditation Criteria

Accredited companies must

- have been in business in one of the telecommunication industry sectors for a minimum of two years
- possess skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the sector they are serving
- be supported by three referees
- have appropriately skilled and trained staff
- use relevant standards appropriate to the planned company activities for the accreditation period
- Have an understanding of the general principles underlying codes of practice, legislation and regulations applicable to New Zealand within their proposed programme of works.
- Have a capacity to apply such principles professionally and efficiently with qualified personnel
- Provide an accompanying plan of work adequate in describing programmed activities appropriate for the chosen category(s).

Accreditation Category

Companies seeking accreditation must nominate which of the following categories is relevant to their current and proposed activities:

- supply of telecommunications equipment
- telecommunications equipment installation & commission, maintain & repair
- telecommunication networks operations
- telecommunications consulting and service provider.

Application for Accreditation

Applicants for accreditation must supply the following :

- company experience in the telecommunication industry to date
- company objectives in the telecommunication sphere(s) for the forthcoming 12- month accreditation period
- qualifications and competency statements for current and any proposed staff
- a list of NZS and AS/NZS standards applied in previous activities
- a list of NZS and AS/NZS standards to be applied during the next 12 month accreditation period

- a staff training statement covering the next 12 months, ie courses to be attended, traineeships, Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning (APL and RPL), etc.
- three referees who can confirm company experience statements
- an accreditation fee TESSO members \$250 + GST, non- members \$750 + GST.

Applications Forms are Available

ATSP application forms can be obtained here at the TESSO website

<http://www.tesso.org.nz/>

or by contacting Chris Jones at chris.jones@tesso.org.nz or (021) 658-953.