



"More Alphabet Soup?"

By Ronald Radabaugh, P.E., L.C.

A.I.A., P.E., LEED AP, R.C.D.D,
H.F.D.P., A.S.I.D, NiCET,
H.E.L.P.!!!!

Wow! The available list of appellations continues to grow now doesn't it. It's certainly difficult to keep up with all of them and determine which ones are important. Of course, our industry will always have its mainstays. We need the A.I.A. (American Institute of Architects) and the P.E. (Professional Engineer) but we are seeing others becoming more and more prominent. One of these that continues to increase in importance is L.C.. This article is intended to provide a little detail on what a L.C. means to your business.

What is L.C.?

L.C. is an appellation that stands for "Lighting Certification". It is an accreditation that is earned through the "National Council of Qualifications for Lighting Professionals" ("NCQLP" for short) and was established in 1991 to provide a basis for the design community regarding the capabilities of a person to perform lighting design. This basis is established through initial testing to obtain certification and then mandatory continuing education requirements. The continuing education requirement includes obtaining 36 LEU (Lighting Educational Units) over a three year period. This continuing education helps ensure that the L.C. remains current with new lighting technologies. An alternate method of certification exists through a minimum of 25 years of service in the lighting industry. Those certified with this alternate method is required to fulfill the continuing educational requirements.

Why do I need an L.C.?

The answer to this is actually pretty simple. The L.C. adds value to the project. There are many designers who can adequately provide lighting design services. In fact, most electrical consulting engineering firms provide lighting design as part of their basic services. A L.C. is someone who has demonstrated, through testing and continuing education, that they have the technical knowledge and experience required to provide a design which meets the project needs and requirements.

Does the L.C. really mean anything?

Absolutely! Even the U.S. government is recognizing the need for certified lighting professionals. The U.S. General Services Administration "GSA" requires that the lighting

design performed on projects be performed by a certified L.C. in their "Facilities Standards for Public Building Service" standard. This attests to the level of seriousness that the U.S. government is putting to credential. Some other state and local levels agree and are requiring a L.C. perform the lighting design on the project. For example, effective January 1, 2009, the city of Bloomington, Minnesota is now requiring all exterior lighting plans be signed by an L.C. Their requirements and enforcement includes the holding of the building certificate of occupancy until the site has confirmed that the final design and actual installation meets the city requirements.

Does a P.E. stamp take precedence over the L.C. credential?

The L.C. is an accreditation, not a license. The L.C. is a certification which indicates specialization in lighting. Currently, the P.E. stamp is not a substitute for the L.C. certification.

Who governs the NCQLP?

The NCQLP is governed by a board of directors that includes the major players in our industry. These include the likes of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA), International Interior Design Association (IIDA), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and the U.S. Department of Energy—Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP).

What is the future of the L.C.?

As previously indicated, many more Federal, State, and Local agencies are requiring the use of L.C.'s on lighting projects and the trend is unlikely to change. This may require the work to be subcontracted to design firms with an L.C. The number of L.C.'s taking the exam and renewing their certification has continued to increase in an effort to keep up with the need. As of the end of 2007, there were 1753 L.C. certificate holders in the United States.

Universities that offer lighting design as part of their curriculum are now becoming eligible to offer the Intern L.C. exam. These universities include the University of Nebraska, Penn State University, and Parsons School of Design.

Here at SBM.

SBM has three L.C.'s on staff to meet both current and future needs. These include James Eckman, Ron Radabaugh, and Dave Holbrook.



SBM Company News:

Scheeser-Buckley-Mayfield LLC Opens Columbus Office

SBM is pleased to announce the opening of a branch office in downtown Columbus. This new office was officially opened on January 5, 2009. The branch office is located on the third floor of the One Marconi Place building in the Arena district.

The office will be led by Joshua J. Roehm. Josh is an Associate with the firm and has been with the firm since 1996. He is a Professional Engineer, is LEED® accredited, and is one of only 150 ASHRAE HFDP (Healthcare Facility Design Professionals) in the country.

Josh and his family will be relocating to the Columbus area.

Please add this office to your contacts. The contact information for the new office is: 300 Marconi Blvd, Suite 306, Columbus, Oh 43215. Office Phone: (614) 448-1498, Office Fax: (614) 448-1498. Alternatively you will be able to reach Josh via his cell phone at (330) 310-6270.



LEED® NC Accredited Professionals

SBM Engineers Marlon Hathaway P.E., Vince Feidler P.E., and Kevin Noble P.E. Chris Schoonover, P.E. recently became LEED® NC 2.2 Accredited Professionals. LEED® Accredited Professionals are recognized by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) as qualified to apply the LEED® rating system on projects.

Currently SBM has a total of ten LEED® AP's in the office.