



## **Tile Apprenticeship:**

By Lupe Ortiz Tile Apprenticeship Coordinator:

### ***What is ACT and why is it important?***

The Advance Certification for Tile Installers (ACT) program was created through the combined efforts of six leading tile industry organizations in the country, with those included are International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC) and the International Masonry Institute (IMI).

The intent of the ACT Certification program is to provide a level of consumer confidence for tile installation procedures that exceed ANSI Standard specifications and TCNA guidelines for floors and walls. ACT certified installers will represent the pinnacle of performance in the tile trade and maintain a level of excellence superior to non-ACT Certified Installers.

### ***Why do we need to be ACT Certified?***

What we are now starting to see in the Architectural Specifications as requirements or qualifications that Installers or Companies must have.

1. Installer Company is a five-star member of the National Tile Contractor Association (NTCA) or a Trowel of Excellence member of the Tile Contractors Association of America (TCAA).
2. Installing contractor's foreman or superintendent for the Project holds the International Masonry Institute (IMI) Foreman Certification.
3. Installing contractor employs Certified Installers recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) as Certified Journeyman Tile Layer.
4. Individual Installer(s) working for installing contractor are certified through Advance Certifications for Tile Installers (ACT) for Grouts, Large Format Tile and Substrate Preparation, Membranes, Mud Work -Mud Floors and Mud Walls, Shower Receptors. and Thin Porcelain Tile (TPT) "Large Porcelain Panels"

### ***What test do I need to take to be ACT Certified?***

There are seven specific areas of the installation based on ANSI Specifications and TCNA *Handbook* guidelines and installation recommendations. **Mud work** consisting of two certifications.

**NOTE:**

- Tile installer has the option of taking one or more tests depending on what his/her contractor may have requested.
- If installer came to ACT on her/his own you may want to be certified on all.
- There are strict guidelines set in place by the ACT steering committee on time, grading and number of times the test can be taken. (All of which are reviewed during the orientation).

**1) Grouts**

Installation certification is intended to demonstrate that the installer maintains the knowledge and hands-on skills to successfully mix, apply, tool and detail three grouting materials A118.3, A118.6 and A118.7 per ANSI specifications and TCNA guidelines.

**2) Large Format Tile:**

Understanding the importance of Substrate Preparation, Floor Flatness, Tile Layouts, Substrate Suitability, Tile Layouts, Coverage and Lippage.

**3) Membranes:**

Knowledge of the specifications and installation of liquid applied and sheet applied crack isolation and waterproof membranes.

**4) Mud Work – Floors and Walls:**

These two particular tests are designed to test the installer skills to properly float walls and floors so that the substrates are ready to receive a tile installation flat, level, plum and square.

**5) Showers:**

Shower installation certification is intended to demonstrate that the installer has the knowledge to properly prepare a shower receptor free of leaks and moisture issues.

**6) Thin Porcelain Tile / “Large Porcelain Panels”**

You will gain knowledge and the ability to demonstrate proper substrate prep, material handling, proper application of mortar, use of tools, cutting and setting techniques required for the installation of these big tiles.

***I am a Tile Installer and would like to become ACT Certified. (Or, I am a contractor and would like to send my key men to become certified). How do I register?***

- 1) Contact NCTI Tile Apprenticeship Coordinator **Lupe Ortiz** at [lortiz@bac3tilejatc.com](mailto:lortiz@bac3tilejatc.com) or call 510-632-8454 to sign up.
- 2) Evaluator will schedule orientation for those who have signed up. **During Orientation**
  - a) ACT packet will be presented and reviewed
  - b) ACT packet will be distributed to those who have committed to be certified.
  - c) Installer will fill out IMI Training Enrollment Form.
  - d) Training Enrollment Form will be emailed to **Bob Arnold**, IMI National Training Director.
- 3) IMI will email installer a Username & Password to log-in and take the online test for those specific test installer has chosen to take on.
- 4) Once the online test(s) are passed, the Evaluator will set a date for the hands-on evaluation.
- 5) Must have passed online test (s) with an 84% score to be eligible for the hands-on evaluation.

**All ACT Certifications will be held at our local Tile Apprenticeship Training Center**