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**ETA<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL**



## PRESS RELEASE

### **ETA Announces Changes to the Certification Maintenance Program**

*ETA<sup>®</sup> International will add hands-on certifications to the maintenance program in order to reduce the cost to certification holders and add ETA membership benefits.*

**Greencastle, December 11, 2015:** ETA<sup>®</sup> International will include all technical certifications with a hands-on component into its certification maintenance program beginning January 1, 2016. Making this change will result in several significant benefits to the certification holders. It will reduce costs, make it easier to earn continuing education credits and add the benefit of ETA membership.

Rapid changes in technology in recent years have changed requirements for maintaining industry certifications. To comply with ISO 17024, ETA requires that certifications earned after January 1, 2003 must be maintained on an annual basis in order to demonstrate continuing proficiency.

Prior to this change, hands-on certifications was part of a renewal program which required certificants to pay the cost of a renewal certification exam every four years as well as submit a total of 24 hours of continuing education credits along with employer verification. Until now, most ETA hands-on certifications cost \$150 to renew. But in the newly revised maintenance program, this cost will be reduced to just \$25 per year, or only \$100 over duration of the four-year certification. This change adds extra value to ETA's hands-on certification programs while making it more consistent with ETA's other technical certifications.

Another benefit of this revised maintenance policy is that ETA will now reach out to them every year instead of every four years, resulting in fewer expired certifications. ETA believes this streamlined process will make it easier for certificants to remember to acquire continuing education credits and to explore new options that become available each year to acquire these necessary credits.

ETA makes it easy to earn continuing education credits in different ways. For example, five credit hours may be awarded for an article submitted to ETA's bi-monthly news magazine, *HighTech News*. Attending association- or manufacturer/supplier-sponsored conferences or seminars, taking online training courses or military electronics training classes are just a few ways to earn credits.

ETA's upcoming Education Forum will offer multiple opportunities to earn continuing education credits. Education Forum will be co-located with the International Wireless Communications Expo in Las Vegas March 20-25, 2016. Certificants can easily check out the many professional development training workshops and sessions available the conferences at [www.iwce.expo/ETA](http://www.iwce.expo/ETA).

Finally, a further new benefit as a result of this change will be that professionals with hands-on certifications will now get free ETA memberships as long as their certifications are maintained. ETA seeks to foster competence, integrity and professionalism among members, and to promote public respect for the electronics profession. ETA membership can help professionals connect with peers from around the world to learn from one another.

Learn more about ETA technical certification programs and membership in the industry's most widely-recognized trade association for certification of electronics professionals at [www.eta-i.org](http://www.eta-i.org).

**About ETA** - Since 1978, ETA has issued over 160,000 professional certifications plus nearly 40,000 FCC license exams. Widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases, and advancements, ETA certifications are often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA's certifications are personal and portable worldwide, thus traveling with the individual, regardless of employment or status change. ETA certifications measure and validate competencies of persons, not products or vendors. All ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. [www.eta-i.org](http://www.eta-i.org)

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