



TRAINING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW OF STANDARDS

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INTRODUCTION

The Utility Safety Partners (USP) Training Standards Committee (TSC - formerly of the Alberta Common Ground Alliance) has developed multiple damage prevention Standards with input from stakeholders in the ground disturbance, buried facility, and damage prevention communities. This overview of the USP Standards identifies the subject matter required in Instructor-Led (classroom or virtual) and online training programs. Sufficient detail is provided to allow a training provider to make an informed decision about developing a program and submitting it to USP for endorsement. It also provides employers and prospective students the information necessary to appreciate the benefits of a training program that has gone through the USP endorsement process.

GROUND DISTURBANCE 101 STANDARD (ALBERTA)

The Ground Disturbance 101 Standard defines the minimum content and student evaluation requirements for ILT and online training programs suitable for a field worker level. This Standard includes ground disturbance/buried facility damage prevention best practices and industry guidelines to provide students with the best information currently available. This Standard does not address the geotechnical aspects or regulatory requirements of safe excavation and trenching.

GROUND DISTURBANCE 201 STANDARDS (ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA & MANITOBA)

The Ground Disturbance 201 Standards define the minimum content and student evaluation requirements for ILT and online training programs suitable for those that wish to ultimately become ground disturbance supervisors. These Standards include regulatory requirements, ground disturbance/buried facility damage prevention best practices and industry guidelines to provide students with the best information currently available. The Standard does not address the geotechnical aspects of safe excavation and trenching. Each of the above listed provinces have their own Standard, specific to regulations and best practices in their respective provinces.

LOCATING & MARKING STANDARD (ALBERTA)

The Locating and Marking Standard defines the minimum content and student evaluation requirements for ILT training programs for those that wish to participate in the Alternate Locate Provider program. This Standard includes regulatory requirements and best practices in regards to locating underground shallow utilities, as well as specific requirements of the Alberta Consortium of Owners. This Standard does not specifically address requirements surrounding the locating of deep utilities.

APPLICATION TO ACCESS THE STANDARDS

Access to any USP Standards will be granted to upon submission of the Application to Access form and be given approval by the TSC. Approval of the Application to Access the Standards will also include an invoice for the Standard access fee for non-USP members in the amount outlined in the current Schedule of Fees. Upon payment of the Standard access fee, the Applicant will receive a PDF copy of the Standard requested. USP members in good standing will not be charged this fee and will be granted access solely on the approval of their application, providing they agree to and sign a confidentiality agreement.

NOTE: Access to the Ground Disturbance 101 Standard will only be granted to GD 201 endorsed training organizations.

PROGRAM ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

There are three stages to the program assessment process:

- Stage I** An evaluation of the content of the Applicant's program against the minimum content specified in the Standard(s). The Applicant's program must meet the requirements of the Stage I Application Form before progressing to Stage II.
- Stage II** A check of the Applicant's internal systems and processes that support the program, ensure the protection of student information collected, and ensure the integrity of examinations and

certificates. The Applicant's internal systems and processes must meet the requirements of the Stage II Application Form before progressing to Stage III.

Stage III

An audit of the Applicant's presentation of the program to ensure the minimum content is presented accurately and in accordance with the Applicant's internal systems and processes. Requirements of the Stage III audit document must be met, and all applicable fees must be paid, before a training program will be considered endorsed.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Each Stage has associated fees set out in the current Schedule of Fees. The current Schedule of Fees is posted on the USP web site www.utilitysafety.ca, or can be obtained by emailing TSCAdmin@UtilitySafety.ca.

SERVICE STANDARD

The timelines associated with the stages of the endorsement process are set out in the Service Standard. The Service Standard is posted on the USP web site www.utilitysafety.ca, or can be obtained by emailing TSCAdmin@UtilitySafety.ca.

Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Completed by:	Approved by:	Briefly describe changes	Version of final copy
04-19-2021	MF	MS	Updated to include AOC document requirements; also created one sole Overview for all Standards	1.0
08-17-2021	MF	MS	Updated to include new logo and USP wording, removing all ABCGA/AOC reference	2.0
03-22-2024	MF	MS	Updated USP address, and also included L&M Standard info	3.0