

What do Robert Smith, MD, Bob Smith, PhD, Robbie Smith, P. Eng., Robyn Smith, RNA, and Robb Smith, RRC, all have in common? Besides the obvious, they all have “credentials” and although each has credentials that are different in nature, they all give notice that the individual is held to a higher standard.

Credentials are letters, certificates, or both, given to a person to demonstrate that he or she has achieved and maintained established levels of education, training, and/or experience. They imply professionalism, integrity, and credibility, and are usually granted upon strict adherence to a code of ethics. In certain cases, the credentials allow the person to practice within his or her profession and this licensure is granted by a credentialing committee that also has the authority to deny the privilege to practice.

Without credentials it would be extremely difficult to distinguish between fact and fiction. It is comforting to know that the credentials behind a doctor’s name attest to the fact that he or she has met all the requirements of the American Medical Association or another country’s equivalent to practice medicine. Knowing that one’s lawyer has a grasp on law can help one in court – or better still – help one to avoid court.

The architect and engineer hired to design a building can protect its owner from potential disaster. Many states, provinces, counties, cities, and towns require that design of new building and component replacements such as roofing and the exterior envelope be performed by a licensed architect or engineer. Some jurisdictions include Registered Roof Consultants (RRCs) in this requirement. By enforcing this requirement, it is believed that the potential for failure or disaster is greatly reduced if not eliminated. It also increases the likelihood that the design will be in accordance

with all code and jurisdictional authority requirements. If an individual does not possess the credentials, they cannot provide the service.

RCI, Inc. grants credentials to three groups of people. The RRC (Registered Roof Consultant) is granted to those individuals who possess established requirements in education, training, and experience and are successful in achieving an established score on an eight-hour examination. The RRO (Registered Roof Observer) requires similar attributes to the RRC and is focused on quality observations and evaluations of roofing and installation. The RWC (Registered Waterproofing Consultant) focuses on waterproofing throughout the entire building envelope. All of these exams were or are in the process of being developed under the direction of a psychometrician in compliance with standards published by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NOCA).

RCI provides educational programs, study guides, reference materials, and direction to publications that help candidates prepare for testing. Examinations are administered several times a year throughout the United States and Canada. In order to maintain their credentials, individuals are required to earn a set amount of CEHs (Continuing Educational Hours) relevant to their discipline on an annual basis. This ensures that they are not only qualified, but also keeping abreast of their trade. The credentials behind the successful candidates’ names are a testament to their ability to provide the highest level of service in the profession and are the only recognized credentials in the roofing and waterproofing industry.

Whether one is maintaining his or her health, finances, or assets, it is imperative that the advice received comes from qualified, knowledgeable, professional, ethical persons who say what they do and do what they say and most importantly, have the credentials to back it up. 

Albert Duwyn, RRC, FRCI

Albert Duwyn, RRC, FRCI, is the president and owner of IRC Building Sciences Group Inc. with offices across Canada and in the Caribbean. A past president of RCI, Inc., Mr. Duwyn is the chairman of the RCI Jury of Fellows and the RCI Marketing Committee and is a director of the RCI Foundation.



CREDENTIALS

BY ALBERT DUWYN, RRC, FRCI

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