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To Certify or Not to Certify

By Ted Belfour

To certify or not to certify? That's a good question.

If you are a mystery shopper, or hope to become one, you may have heard about mystery shopping certification. The Mystery Shopping Providers Association of North America provides such certification which the organization states simply lets potential clients know that you possess the basic skills needed to provide the shopping service. The basic skills test can be taken online and the fee is nominal. A more expensive certification is available and for that fee you get a certain amount of training and updated mystery shopping industry literature for the ever changing field.

Is certification necessary? No.

It might help you get a foot in the door if a company is hiring mystery shoppers and has had a bad experience with an unqualified shopper in the past. Other than that, certification won't get you any more shopping gigs than if you don't have it. On the other hand, being certified and part of an organization like the Mystery Shopping Providers Association might keep you posted on additional opportunities.

While it is always true that you should not have to pay to be a mystery shopper, certification is a little different. When you choose to get certified, you are not paying to get more mystery shopping gigs. Instead, you are paying to receive updated information about a job area that is changing as rapidly as the need for mystery shoppers is. In other words, you are paying for learning materials. And, since knowledge is power, that makes for a good case in favor of certification.

Please note, too, that not only does certification NOT guarantee you more jobs, it does not guarantee you more pay either. Maybe some day certification will raise the standard in the mystery shopping industry, but for right now, that's just not the case.

If you are trying to decide whether or not to get certified, it's basically your call. Weigh out the pros and cons of your particular situation. If you think you would benefit from the training that certification would offer but you don't want to put any money up front, wait until later.

Mystery shopping can be a fun and rewarding job. Many people are making additional income by being a mystery shopper part time. The job is one that is easily tailored to fit your work, school or family schedule. In most cases, you can take your family along as long as the assignment is family oriented.

Dave is the owner of

<http://mystery-shopping-job.info>

and

<http://secret-shopper-company.info>

websites

that provide information on mystery shoppers.

Vital Chemicals for Cooling Towers

By Thomas Yoon

Vital Chemicals for Cooling Towers by Thomas Yoon

Cooling towers are used to cool down hot condenser water taken from chillers of air conditioning systems. The cooling effect of cooling towers are attributed to the evaporation of the water when it is blown through by air from the fans.

After some time of circulating through the cooling towers, the water becomes more and more concentrated with the dissolved salts in the water. The concentrated water has to be drained off and fresh new water added into the system to make it less saline.

However, when fresh water is added, it will not have any passivation chemicals to protect the piping and the component condenser parts from corrosion. So chemicals are added to protect the piping and the machinery.

For cooling tower water, the chemical used serve 2 basic functions – a corrosion inhibitor and a biocide.

The corrosion inhibitor is for preventing corrosion in the piping and the related parts. The biocide is to prevent growth of algae, bacteria and other micro organisms.

To Certify or Not to Certify

Every water treatment chemical company has its own formula and special concoctions. A typical corrosion inhibitor may contain about 1 – 10% Potassium Hydroxide or similar alkali. This is then further diluted when mixed with the water in the cooling tower. Being an alkali, it will neutralize any acids found in the water that can cause corrosion to occur.

The cooling tower is installed outdoors. With the ample warmth from the chiller, fresh air and sunlight, the water it contains is a very ideal medium for the growth of micro organism.

Micro organism growing in cooling tower water causes a lot of problems. Clumps of algae can cause chokages in the pump strainers. Long strands of microscopic plants can act like nets that can cause restrictions to the flow of the water. Some organisms cause diseases and other health related problems to people. A typical biocide contains Sodium hypochlorite with concentrations ranging from 10 – 20%. Again, this is further

diluted when mixed with the cooling water.

Even with the dosing of chemicals, the cooling tower needs to be cleaned every now and then. Dusts from the air still manage to settle down inside the sump of the cooling tower. So does the remains of dead micro organisms. These can stick to the infills and prevent the proper distribution of the water flow.

Sometimes cooling tower plastic infills get brittle due to the exposure to ultraviolet rays found in sunlight. They often break up into small particles that can choke even coarse filters.

Folks, it's time to clean up!

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