



Statement of Intent – Grouts

The Advanced Certifications for Tile Installers (ACT) program has been created through the combined efforts of six organizations including; the Ceramic Tile Education Foundation (CTEF), the International Masonry Institute (IMI), the International Union of Brick Layers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC), the National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA), the Tile Contractors Association of America (TCAA) and the Tile Council of North America (TCNA).

The purpose of the ACT Certification program is to establish a testing mechanism which evaluates the skills and knowledge of tile installers who have been pre-qualified by being either a Certified Tile Installer (CTI) through the Ceramic Tile Education Foundation (CTEF) or a journeyman tile setter who has successfully completed the apprenticeship training program conducted by the International Union of Brick Layers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC).

The intention of the ACT program is to provide a level of consumer confidence for tile installation procedures that exceed ANSI standards and TCNA guidelines for floor and wall. It is intended to demonstrate the knowledge and hands-on skill of the experienced tile setter. It is not intended as a training program. ACT certified installers represent the pinnacle of performance in the tile trade and maintain a level of excellence superior to non-ACT certified installers.

The ACT 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 the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Specifications and the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) *Handbook*. It is intended to provide consumers with the confidence that the finished installation of grout materials will be free of cracking, unevenness, slumping, over-washing and efflorescence issues.