

July 2014

**Future directions of NABERS
training and accreditation
including CPD**



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About AIRAH

AIRAH is the recognised voice of the Australian air conditioning, refrigeration and heating industry. We aim to minimise the environmental footprint of our vital sector through communication, education and encouraging best practice.

AIRAH – Strategic Aims

Claim the sustainability space

Through its conferences, publications, manuals and training, AIRAH will educate and motivate the HVAC&R industry and related fields about achieving sustainability. Our aim is to be the HVAC&R organisation whose values are aligned with sustainability in a practical sense

Close the skills gaps

At a time of rapid change of new technology and standards, and a shifting regulatory landscape, AIRAH will provide relevant professional development for HVAC&R industry personnel, and work alongside government and providers to ensure the voids in formal training are filled.

Inform regulation and policy decisions

As the key industry organisation representing HVAC&R in Australia, it is essential AIRAH collaborate with government at both the state and federal levels. The collective skills and specialist knowledge of the Institute can better inform decisions that affect society and the HVAC&R industry.

Build and engage membership

AIRAH will become the institute of choice for HVAC&R professionals in Australia. This means ensuring that formal connection with AIRAH provides benefits – actual and intangible – that are valuable, worthwhile and attractive to our members throughout their professional lives.

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Future directions of NABERS training and accreditation including CPD: Options for comments

This document summarises AIRAH's response to the *Future directions of NABERS training and accreditation including CPD: Options for comments* document released in June 2014. AIRAH, the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating represents members of the HVAC&R industry, and among them many NABERS assessors as well as those within the industry who use the NABERS tool.

1 Training and accreditation

1.1 Modularise

AIRAH supports the modularisation of the training process and prefers Option B for the categorisation scheme.

We note that apart from the introductory seminar, we strongly advocate a face-to-face approach to training to ensure participants are fully engaged and focused, and that trainers can tailor presentations to the audience.

1.2 Prerequisites

AIRAH feels that prerequisites for NABERS assessors are a vital requirement in ensuring quality of assessors and maintaining industry respect for the scheme. While a qualification in a field of engineering or science is preferred, we appreciate that this does not guarantee knowledge or performance.

We therefore suggest that would-be assessors be required to pass an exam demonstrating understanding of the property market, buildings and their systems (e.g. leasing arrangements, base building vs tenant services, the ability to read mechanical and electrical drawings, etc.).

1.3 Additional comments – cost of training and accreditation

Feedback from our members suggests that many consider the cost of training and accreditation of the NABERS scheme to be excessive. NABERS assessor accreditation is more than double the cost of accreditation with, for example, the Green Building Council of Australia and can prove prohibitively expensive for assessors who only complete a few ratings per year. An alternative solution might be to charge assessors a smaller “base” annual fee and then an additional fee per rating, or increase the rating fee to compensate. The cost of training could be managed through the introduction of modularised and alternative training options outlined in this document.

2 Alternative NABERS training

AIRAH supports alternative training as many of our members use the NABERS scheme and tools without ever intending to do assessments. The training, examination and accreditation requirements are currently excessive for such people from both a time and cost perspective.

A title such as “NABERS Associate/Affiliate” or such, with relevant CPD requirements, would be suitable.

3 Continuous professional development

AIRAH strongly supports a CPD scheme for NABERS assessors, however, stresses that these must be valuable CPD exercise. Our preferred scheme is Option 3.1 – assessors and “associates” should be taught whatever material is necessary to maintain and improve their NABERS knowledge, and this material should be specific to the NABERS scheme and set by the administrator, rather than general industry knowledge.

Suggested CPD topics include:

- Mandatory completion of a certain number of ratings per year – for assessors who are unable to source ratings in the marketplace, dummy ratings (set by NABERS) can be completed
- New rulings and technical clarifications
- Mistakes found in Level 1 and 2 audits
- Common queries.

The CPD scheme must be mandatory and linked to accreditation.