



## ACI, CGAT and CGAD Frequently Asked Questions

*The American Fence Association has partnered with the National Ornamental & Miscellaneous Metals Association (NOMMA), the Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute (CLFMI), and the Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) (pending) to introduce a third-party credentialing entity, the Accreditation & Certification Institute (ACI), and two new certification programs, Certified Gate Automation Technician and Certified Gate Automation Designer. This new venture is part of a broader strategic plan to establish AFA members as the professional resource for safe and compliant automated gate systems across the United States. Knowing there are currently many AFA members who hold certifications in gate operator installation and gate systems design, the following Frequently Asked Questions are provided to inform and advise our members on the distinction between the existing programs and those being launched through ACI.*

**Q: How does this new organization affect my existing certifications, Certified Automated Gate Operator Installer (CAGOI) and Certified Automated Gate Systems Designer (CAGSD) that I already hold?**

A: It doesn't change anything that you currently hold. If you are already certified as a Gate Operator Installer or Gate Systems Designer, you may maintain those credentials as you ordinarily would.

**Q: What exactly is ACI?**

A: ACI is the Accreditation and Certification Institute, a non-profit association supported by the American Fence Association (AFA), the National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metals Association (NOMMA) the Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute (CLFMI), and the Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) (pending). It was created as a third party credentialing organization that will focus on programs for the fence, gate, active vehicular access barrier, access control, deck and rail industries. The Certified Gate Automation Technician program is designed as a step towards a Master Certified Gate Automation Technician program that is envisioned by AFA for a late 2020 launch as part of AFA University.

**Q: Going forward, which certification programs should I utilize?**

A: ACI testing will be offered at future AFA-sponsored events, so we encourage you to begin using the new programs as you enroll additional individuals into certification courses. The study materials are subject to modification by AFA, but are based on the same content used for Operator Installer School, now rebranded as Gate Automation Technician School (GATS), and Automated Gate Systems Design School, now rebranded as Gate Automation Designer School (GADS).

The Certified Gate Automation Technician (CGAT) program will be a prerequisite to achieve the “Master” Certified Gate Automation Technician credential, which is planned to launch at AFA University in 2020. Along with CGAT, ACI is launching the Certified Gate Automation Designer credential at FENCETECH 2020. Both the CGAT and CGAD programs are the most comprehensive and up to date credentials in the industry. Individuals that desire new certifications or existing certification holders that would like to advance their career path can earn the new CGAT and/or CGAD certifications by contacting ACI. AFA encourages you to utilize the ACI programs for new certifications, but you are not required to do anything differently regarding those currently held by your employees.

**Q: Are ACI exams the same as the other certification exams?**

A: No. Entirely new examinations have been created for the ACI certification programs, but the questions have been created from the same training materials used at Gate Automation Technician School (GATS) and Gate Automation Designer School (GADS).

**Q: Can I transfer my existing certifications to ACI?**

A: No. These certifications are issued by two separate credentialing organizations. If you have either or both of the existing automated gate certifications, they are unchanged by this new program.

**Q: When my existing certifications come up for renewal, what do I do then?**

A: You may renew your existing certifications as you would normally do through the issuing organization.

**Q: What about Continuing Education? Who do I report to for classes I have taken for CE credit?**

A: Continuing education requirements for CGAT and CGAD designations will be reported to ACI. Continuing education requirements for CAGOI and CAGSD designations will be reported to the issuing organization. ACI has its own Continuing Education requirements, which apply only to the certifications it issues.

**Q: Why is ACI creating new certifications relating to automated gates?**

A: AFA has determined it will be a national proponent of automated gate systems safety in both design and installation. AFA plans major outreach programs to architects, specifiers, code officials, public inspection agencies, lawmakers and other industry influencers to advance gate automation safety and compliance with safety standards. AFA plans to soon introduce an advanced level gate automation certification, as well as other training and education activities that are specific to the needs of its members. In order to best facilitate the full scope of its automated gate safety efforts, AFA determined it could best serve its members and the general public by developing its own programs by partnering with a third party credentialing organization.

**Q: Is ACI primarily an automated gate certification body?**

A: Actually, no. ACI already administers the Certified Fence Contractor credential and is going to be active in developing other certification programs for the fence, deck, access control, and rail industries.

**Q: Who owns ACI and how is it governed?**

A: No one owns ACI. ACI is an independent organization supported by non-profit associations with an interest in industry professionalism and public safety. AFA, NOMMA, CLFMI, and DASMA are all members of ACI. ACI is governed by a board of directors consisting of one representative from each supporting association.