

NEWS RELEASE

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NCCER Engages Data Forensics in Audit Process

Gainesville, Fla.—NCCER has engaged the process of data forensics to ensure the security and integrity of module tests and assessments. This new process will affect NCCER's auditing procedure, as outlined in the NCCER Accreditation Guidelines.

"After an organization passes their initial audit and becomes an accredited sponsor, they are subject to re-accreditation audits every three years or 'for cause' audits at any time deemed necessary," said Diane Greene, director of program operations, NCCER. "Data forensics is another tool which can be used to conduct targeted auditing on suspected activities."

The data forensics process will collect data over time and run statistical models against the data to reveal unusual trends or behaviors. Grouping candidates by test categories and test locations will allow NCCER to conduct broader comparisons and determine if unusual activity is taking place. NCCER can determine if better-than-expected performance is a result of preparation or unfair activities and estimate the probability of these unusual events to aid the auditing process.

Prov, NCCER's test-development partner, has engaged a Ph.D. statistician to set up the model and analyze the data. All data, including candidate information and site names, are coded to prevent researcher bias. Findings from this independent researcher are summarized and reported to Prov which in turn reports the data to NCCER.

"Our use of data forensics has arisen out of the need to ensure that the testing program is maintained at the highest level over time," said Henry Sorenson, president of Prov. "Data forensics will allow NCCER to identify the 'needle in the haystack,' or the locations where the unusual behavior is occurring."

***About NCCER**—NCCER was created by the construction industry to develop standardized curriculum with portable credentials and to help address the skilled construction workforce shortage. NCCER is recognized by the industry as the training, assessment, certification, and career development standard for the construction, maintenance, and pipeline craft professional. For more information, visit www.nccer.org or contact NCCER customer service at 888.622.3720.*

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