



The Fiber Optic Association, Inc.

1119 S. Mission Road, #355, Fallbrook, California 92028 USA

Tel: 1-760-451-3655 Fax: 1-781-207-2421

Email: info@thefoa.org <http://www.TheFOA.org>

Fiber optics has become the predominant communications medium, not just for telephones, but also for cable television, security systems and computer networks. Now, fiber is being used for the final telecom connection – directly to the home! Workers in all these fields are expected to understand how fiber optics is used and, in many cases, be competent in its installation. Training in these areas has become extremely important and The Fiber Optic Association is prepared to help.

What is The FOA?

The FOA is a international non-profit educational organization that is dedicated to promoting professionalism in the field of fiber optics. Founded in 1995 by a dozen prominent fiber optics trainers and industry personnel, it has grown to now being involved in:

- Administering technical certification programs
- Evaluating and approving training schools
- Developing courses and training programs
- Training instructors
- Participating in industry standards activities
- Maintaining an online database to connect users and installers or consultants
- Publishing an online monthly newsletter
- Promoting fiber optics applications and education

To date, the FOA has approved over 200 training programs, including technical high schools and colleges, union apprenticeships, professional training organizations and companies offering employee training programs. Almost 25,000 students have successfully completed requirements for the FOA CFOT (Certified Fiber Optic Technician) certification.

FOA Certifications

The FOA recognizes the value of certification in today's job markets, where employers evaluate potential employees by their certifications. By offering certifications that are developed by a board of industry experts and are not affiliated with any particular vendor or training organization, we provide an independent means for them to judge potential employees.

The FOA now offers certifications in basic fiber optics (CFOT), advanced fiber optics (AFOT), Fiber to the Home/Premises (CFxT) and specialist certifications in design, splicing, termination, testing and instructing (CFOS).

The FOA has focused on helping teachers add programs on fiber optics into their current communications curriculum. Fiber optics has been included in courses as diverse as A+ and Cisco computer training and electrical apprenticeships. Some of the companies and organizations that use FOA certification in their own training programs include Corning, AFL, NASA, IBEW/NJATC, Cisco, Panduit, Daimler-Chrysler and Mead Paper.

How Can The FOA Help You?

For Instructors, Schools and Training Organizations

- The FOA offers a range of services including instructor training and certification, training materials and support that leads to becoming an "FOA-Approved Training Organization" The FOA will list all approved schools on the FOA website as a guide to students looking for quality training.

For Students of FOA Approved Schools

- FOA Certification Programs open up job opportunities and assure customers of worker competence. Passing the various levels of the FOA certification program will demonstrate a level of competence in the fiber optics field to employers or customers, whether the worker is new to the industry or looking to move up. CFOTs are eligible to join the FOA online database where users can search for employees, installers, contractors and consultants.

For Everyone In The Industry

- The FOA website offers a searchable database for users or employers to find installers or consultants and a monthly online newsletter covering industry news and technology. The "Tech Topics" section offers an extensive library of technical information and tutorials on fiber optics. Numerous links to other relevant websites are included.

For More Information: www.thefoa.org