

IS AN INSPECTOR QUALIFIED TO PERFORM AN IR INSPECTION?

Many inspectors will tell you that they are a “certified thermography inspector”, a “certified level I inspector” or a “certified infrared home inspector” but this does not necessarily mean that they are qualified to perform an infrared home inspection since there is no legal standard for thermographer certification. The Government of Canada National Master Specifications however, clarifies this issue. NMS 022713 specifies that a small building thermographer must meet the requirements for ASNT Thermal/Infrared Level I certification. ASNT stands for the American Society of Non-destructive Testing, an unbiased independent organization responsible for establishing certification standards. (www.asnt.org)

We suggest homeowners use the same criteria as the Government of Canada when selecting a thermographer. At a minimum, they should have a certificate from a training company (like The Snell Group) stating that they have met the educational requirements of ASNT Level I T/IR certification. This certifies they have attended a standardized 32 hour training class and passed a course comprehension exam with a mark of at least 70%. The course curriculum is established by ASNT and not a camera manufacturer, training company, or home inspection organization. Snell courses meet and exceed the requirements for ASNT education.

Even better if the inspector has a certificate of full compliance with ASNT TC-1A Level I or Level II. It implies they have a minimum of 210 hours (LI) or 1,260 hours (LII) of experience performing building inspections, have passed a rigorous set of exams, and their company has a quality control document (“Written Practice”) audited by an ASNT Level III certificate holder.

Finally you should ask your inspector if their IR camera meets or exceeds the specifications for building inspections as set out in the Government of Canada National Master Specifications NMS 022713. Some cameras do not meet this specification which could mean your inspector might miss a problem.

ABOUT US

Snell Infrared Canada is part of The Snell Group - the largest independent thermography training company in the world. We train on all makes and models of infrared cameras and provide a vendor-neutral training environment for thermographers in all stages of learning from pre-purchase through to ASNT Level III. We understand that while learning to use an IR camera is fairly straightforward, learning to interpret the thermal image is a life-long learning experience. We call this “Thinking Thermally”®!

**Snell Infrared Canada
Canadian Training Center
556 Edward Avenue, Suite 58, Richmond Hill, Ontario
Canada, L4C 9Y5**

**Tel: +1.905.508.3305 Fax: + 1.905.508.3375
Email: snellcanada@thesnellgroup.com
www.thesnellgroup.com**

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