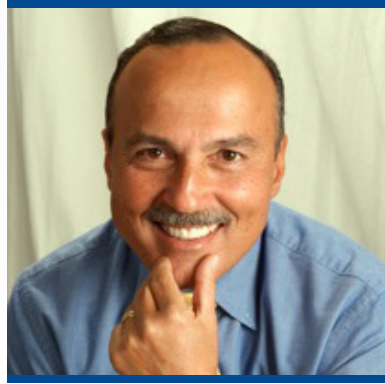


NABCEP CERTIFICANT PROFILE

Mike Holt



Mike Holt is the chief executive officer of Mike Holt Enterprises, which operates a publishing company to serve the needs of the electrical community exclusively. He is widely recognized as an expert on the National Electrical Code™ and, since 2010, a NABCEP Certified PV Installer.

When he explains how he came into the solar industry he says, “I was forced into it. After many years as an electrician, educator, and having written fifteen books for electricians, I thought I had done everything. Then customers began to ask me about installing solar systems. I wanted to know more about it.”

“When I attended my first manufacturer’s training class, the instructor kept advising the participants to get NABCEP certified. I found out what he was talking about and what was required to become certified. I really appreciated the fact that in order to take the exam I needed to train hard. The exam was a challenge. I have never scored so low on an exam!”

“Now, I feel like I belong to a special club. I have a greater sense of confidence about my solar skills.” Through his training activities Mike works with a lot of electricians and he feels, “Individuals without NABCEP certification are really not able to add to the growth of the solar industry because they don’t know about attaining the proper performance from a PV system.”

As a long-standing electrician, Mike knows that on most jobs there is little design work to be done. Nevertheless, he feels that the amount of system design knowledge called for in the NABCEP PV Installer Job Task Analysis is appropriate. “On the job, this design knowledge means that the NABCEP certified individual is the ‘go to’ person. They are the ones who know how the whole job goes together. They need to know everything from the initial design to the end performance of the system,” he says.

As a trainer, Holt has a clear view of the importance of learning new skills throughout an individual’s career. “In a changing job market electricians should position themselves for future success by preparing for future possibilities. More customers are asking about PV installations and electricians should be prepared to provide the answers. Individuals who think that certification is irrelevant are dinosaurs—lazy and expending zero effort to improve their skills. Certification brings safety to the table, which is very relevant on the job.”

“PV is a young industry with participants who are enthusiastic about their special skills. NABCEP is doing a great job in providing a professional, caring, and recognized certification to the solar industry.”