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I have been an RRO since 2008. In preparation for my test I took Roof Technology and Science I and II, Rooftop Quality Assurance, and Professional Roof Consulting. Since becoming an RRO I have also taken the "Low Slope Roofing Systems" workshop (Dec 2009) and the "Water Entry Prevention and Moisture Control in Buildings" workshop (Dec 2011) both at the University of Wisconsin, Madison Department of Engineering. These classes/workshops were all very good and I am very pleased to have taken them.

I spent last week at the "Roofing Technology, Maintenance, and Inspection" course given by George Wilson and Rick Pollard outside of Toronto (this course is approved by RCI for 29.5 CE credits). It is my honest belief that this course should be a requirement for the RRO designation. Since so many of the RRO candidates are just learning about the various low slope membranes a hands-on class like this is a huge benefit. The other courses focus on the theory and makeup of the various membranes and unfortunately do not provide the quality observer with real life practical experience in knowing what is right and wrong and why. The practicality of this course (actually assembling various different low slope roofing systems) I believe goes to the heart of what an RRO is supposed to be qualified to do.

I understand the politics of a "required" course so if this course cannot be "required" then it certainly should be included in your list of "highly recommended" courses for anyone who is pursuing the RRO designation. Honestly, had I taken this course years ago my comfort level with the various membranes and what I should and should not see would have been higher.

I have been consulting and troubleshooting on steep slope roofs for over 30 years. I have inspected and performed condition assessments on commercial roofs over the last 15 years as part of due diligence on the behalf of commercial property buyers, prospective tenants, and building owners. Even with this experience last week's class has made a significant impact on me and my confidence when meeting a roofer on a new construction job and understanding the components of the roof and how they are to go together.

It is my sincere belief that people that take this course will be better observers and quality assurance technicians than the vast majority of those who do not take this course. Our class had 17 people in it. There were women and men, roofers, consultants, and maintenance people. This was the best low slope roofing course I have taken and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested or is already doing RRO type work.

I have no connection whatsoever to this course. I am just a very pleased participant who thinks many others should avail themselves of this opportunity.

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