HOW IT WORKS
VERIFICATION, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT

VERIFICATION Before becoming accredited by the Tree Care Industry Association, a company must meet all items on the Accreditation standard checklist. The tree care company will also be reviewed by an independent auditor during a site visit that includes monitoring crew operations and verification of the checklist.

FACT: Only 30% of facilities are accredited immediately after the initial visit; the remainder must take additional steps to ensure verification.

COMPLIANCE TCIA verifies that an accredited company has maintained Commercial Business Liability and Workers Compensation insurance.

FACT: TCIA stands as an insurance certificate holder with the accredited company, so TCIA keeps a valid insurance certificate issued by an insurance agent on file.

Every year, TCIA reviews a number of Accreditation checklist items to ensure company compliance. Examples include maintaining ISA Certified Arborists and Certified Treecare Safety Professionals (CTSP) on staff.

Every three years, facilities must be re-accredited. The process is identical to initial enrollment in Accreditation.

ENFORCEMENT At any point, Accreditation may be withdrawn by TCIA for failure to maintain each checklist item. There is also a formal complaint procedure available for clients and peers to file complaints with TCIA against accredited companies.

Learn more about TCIA Accreditation, and how you can incorporate this criteria into securing successful bids for your city's tree work.

Contact Bob Rouse or Charlie Tentas
rrouse@tcia.org ctentas@tcia.org
800-733-2622
TCIA.ORG

TAKING THE GUESSWORK OUT OF TREE CARE BIDS

ACCREDITATION from the Tree Care Industry Association
ETHICS CONFIDENCE QUALITY

“Being accredited has helped me be more accountable to myself, my staff and our clients. It also gave me a better feeling about the profession I'm in.”

George R. Lee
Owner and CEO of Branch Tree Service, Inc., Warren, MI

WHO IS TCIA?
Established in 1938, the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) is a trade association of more than 2,200 commercial tree care firms and affiliated companies.

WHAT IS TCIA ACCREDITATION?
TCIA Accreditation is a third-party verification process similar in structure to other industry credentialing processes for companies, such as the ISO 9000 series of certifications. TCIA Accreditation reviews tree care industry-specific standards, client satisfaction and regulatory compliance, including safety training and compliance requirements.

MEANING?
Clients can feel confident about the ethics and quality of contractors accredited by the Tree Care Industry Association. Accredited tree care companies must adhere to the highest measure of professionalism based on:
• Industry standards for quality and safety
• Maintenance of well-trained, professional staff
• Dedication to ethics and quality in business practices

CONCERNS:
Municipalities need to avoid unforeseen costs, disreputable companies and poor work, as well as the headaches of contracting problems that can be associated with improper tree work.

SOLUTION:
Hire professional and qualified tree care contractors by requiring TCIA Accreditation in your bids.

Organizations that cite TCIA Accreditation prominently in bid specs or recommendations:
Central Park Conservancy, NYC, NY
City of Chicago, IL
City of Fort Worth, TX
City of Plymouth, MN
City of Naperville, IL
City of Warren, MI
National Park Service
Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA)
US Department of Defense (USDoD)
Village of Burr Ridge, IL
Village of Mount Prospect, IL
Village of Oak Lawn, IL

More municipalities are added daily.
Check tcia.org for the latest list.

BY THE NUMBERS
176 companies, representing 397 locations are currently accredited, with more than 7,000 employees.

Since 2004, there have only been TWO formal client complaints against a TCIA accredited company.

TCIA Accredited companies suffer fewer losses compared to the rest of the industry; with a .82 worker's compensation modification rate compared to the industry average of 1.0. This translates to an 18% savings on insurance premiums compared to the average company.

The median insurance coverage purchased per company is:
GL: 1M; Commercial Auto: 1M; Umbrella: 1M, Workers' Compensation: 750K.

This highlights higher insurance coverage limits for TCIA accredited companies when compared to those mandated by law or recommended minimum coverage.

(Numbers valid for USA only, as of March 2015)
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