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The Industrial Training Boards have issued about 70 technician training recommendations and guides. Some are general to a wide range of technician occupations having an outline programme, and indicating how a detailed syllabus should be drawn up, others are specific to a single type of technician. None of the latter deal with acoustic technicians.

The recent survey by the Education and Training Group of the Society concluded the training of technicians was inadequate. What can be done to improve the position?

The first essential requirement is to define the jobs of a technician nature, to analyse the tasks required to do the job, and to define the skills and knowledge required for each task. It is then possible to design training programmes and related further education courses to meet job and career needs.

The analysis will help to answer other questions:

Does the job require a specialist or would a technician in another discipline be suitable, perhaps after short specialist training?

Do existing acoustic technicians require updating training?

What knowledge of and skills in other disciplines are necessary in the basic training and education of acoustic technicians?

Is there a more general need for short specialist courses in acoustics for existing technicians in other occupations?

What knowledge of and skills in acoustics should be included in the basic training of other technicians eg mechanical engineering services, plumbing, electronic, aircraft maintenance and refrigeration?

If the Society could develop initiatives to find answers to these and other questions significant progress will be made towards a more satisfactory definition of and provision for training and education in acoustics.