

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING EXPERIENCE OF A CANDIDATE

HISTOTECHNOLOGY

To qualify for certification as an international histotechnician, the applicant should be competent to perform **ALL** of the tests and procedures indicated. Competency may be demonstrated through direct observation of performance or review of results. The international histotechnician should have the equivalent knowledge and skill to those of a graduate of an accredited Histotechnology program:

AREA OF EXPERIENCE	EXTENT OF EXPERIENCE
FIXATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tissue Identification • Parameters (e.g., pH, time, temperature) • Reagents • Selection, preparation, and use of fixatives for various applications • Troubleshooting/problem solving of fixation artifacts
PROCESSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection, preparation, and use of decalcification reagents • Selection of appropriate processing methods for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Routine histology ○ Enzyme histochemistry ○ Immunofluorescence ○ Immunohistochemistry ○ Cytology • Operation and maintenance of a tissue processor
EMBEDDING / MICROTOMY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tissue identification and orientation ○ Operation and maintenance of an embedding center • Microtomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paraffin ○ Frozen • Operation and maintenance of a microtome / water bath and cryostat
STAINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of appropriate control material • Reagent preparation • Operation and maintenance of staining equipment • Mounting and coverslipping procedures • Identification of tissue structures and their staining characteristics • Routine staining (i.e., H&E) • Special staining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carbohydrates and amyloid ○ Connective tissue ○ Microorganisms ○ Pigments and minerals
LABORATORY OPERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation, preventive maintenance, and corrective action for equipment • Troubleshooting • Quality control • Application of laboratory safety protocols