



by Britt Wood

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Are You Ready?

As 2007 dawns, I can not tell you how excited I am for this year to get going. At The Loss Prevention Foundation, we are preparing for the launch of our first of two certification programs—the LPC^{QUALIFIED}. Later in the year, we will release our second certification—the LPC^{CERTIFIED}. At that point, we will be well on our way to delivering the best educational programs available to the retail loss prevention industry.

So, my question to you is, “Are you ready?” Your response might be, “What do you mean ‘Am I ready?’ Ready for what?” Let me tell you.

LPC^{QUALIFIED}

As you may have read in past articles, LPC^{QUALIFIED} will be the first of two certifications that The Foundation will release in 2007. The LPC^{QUALIFIED} is designed for individuals who are new to the loss prevention profession or who are looking to start a career in loss prevention. This certification coursework, which was developed by retail professionals from today’s leading retailers, is designed not only give individuals a firm grasp of loss prevention, but give them a good understanding of the retail business as well.

In December, the subcommittees who helped design the content for the LPC^{QUALIFIED} coursework received the first draft of the content they helped to develop. After several weeks of feedback from the subcommittees, The Foundation writers went back to work on making revisions and fine-tuning the content. This month the subcommittees will have one last look at the content prior to its going to the Loss Prevention Certification Council (LPCC) for final approval.

After the final changes have been made and the LPCC has given their final approval, there will be a soft launch of the LPC^{QUALIFIED} course. What, you may be wondering, is a soft launch? A soft launch is when we have a small group of individuals from different retailers take the course. Generally, we give them two weeks to work through a few modules and come back to us with quirks they have found in the software. This soft launch takes about three to four weeks and should help us get the LPC^{QUALIFIED} in optimum shape for its release in late March or early April.

What can you do to get ready for this launch? If you manage loss prevention professionals, we recommend you evaluate the LPC^{QUALIFIED} program to see who in your company can most

benefit from the coursework and the certification process. We will have sample coursework on our website this month, as well as a presentation you can access that will explain the LPC^{QUALIFIED} certification process to you. Once you have determined who is best suited to get their LPC^{QUALIFIED} credentials, you should consider taking advantage of our “pre-release” pricing for companies. This pricing will only be available for a limited time, beginning February 1 until the LPC^{QUALIFIED} program is launched in late March or early April.

Not everyone’s company will be looking to put all of their LP professionals through the certification. So, if you are an individual who is looking to further your career in loss prevention, I encourage you to take a look at LPC^{QUALIFIED} on your own. We will also be offering “pre-release” pricing for individuals as well and encourage anyone who is looking for more education to look into the LPC^{QUALIFIED} certification.

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LPC^{CERTIFIED}

Our LPC^{CERTIFIED} coursework began development in December when over fifty individuals met over four days in Charlotte, North Carolina, and in Washington, DC, to work on the content for the LPC^{CERTIFIED} coursework. LPC^{CERTIFIED} has four modules similar to LPC^{QUALIFIED}, however the four modules in LPC^{CERTIFIED} are far more advanced in their scope than those of LPC^{QUALIFIED}. The four modules include business practices, people and leadership, advanced core LP, and crisis management. You can find more detailed information on the contents of these courses on our website.

Now that the content is being written, we have a better sense of the release date for LPC^{CERTIFIED}. We anticipate that the subcommittees that met in December will have their first look

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