

**ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PATROLLERS**  
**CERTIFICATION TESTING CRITERIA**

**AVALANCHE CONTROL**

**BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN ASSOCIATE STATUS:**

1. Meteorology:
  - a) Instrumentation
  - b) Orographic lifting
  - c) Density
2. Snow pack:
  - a) Types of metamorphism
  - b) Creep and glide
3. Avalanche Phenomena:
  - a) Slab and loose avalanches – properties and nomenclature
  - b) Triggers
  - c) Parts of an avalanche path
4. Avalanche control:
  - a) Procedure at the control point
  - b) Safety during explosive control and ski cutting
  - c) Protective skiing and its benefits
  - d) Mandatory personal equipment for avalanche control
5. Avalanche rescue:
  - a) Rescue methods
  - b) Three-stage rescue plan
  - c) First Aid for the avalanche victim
  - d) Applications and dimensions of coarse and fine probes
  - e) Rescue pack contents and uses
  - f) Self rescue

**ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ATTAIN CERTIFIED STATUS:**

1. Meteorology:
  - a) Understand and describe the role of meteorology in avalanche formation relating to: relative humidity, lapse rate, riming, the effect of wind on snow, cyclonic circulation, surface hoar, crystal types, etc.
2. Snow pack:
  - a) Describe ET and TG metamorphism
  - b) Snow pit observations
  - c) Effect of rain on snow
3. Avalanche phenomena:
  - a) Type of failure leading to avalanche release

4. Avalanche control:
  - a) Effects of skier compaction
  - b) Use of primer cord and cornice control
  - c) Optimum shot placement
5. Avalanche Rescue:
  - a) Time concerns, leadership and route finding safety
  - b) Should be able to demonstrate sufficient knowledge to be able to assume leadership role in an avalanche rescue