

Complaints Process

Any number of situations may arise which may lead a candidate or certified technician to file a formal complaint with SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. This may include a perceived flaw in a question or exam, or a complaint against a SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. certified technician, staff member, or volunteer. This process offers any individual the opportunity to have his or her concerns heard in a fair, objective forum. Through this process however, individuals will not be entitled to receive a copy of either the certification examination or the answers to any questions on the examination.

Any individual may present written evidence of the basis for their complaint. Such evidence shall be reviewed and appropriate action taken. No disciplinary action will be taken against the individual simply because a complaint as filed. All complaints will be treated as confidential.

To ensure an impartial appeals process, a Complaint Review Panel consisting of three (3) SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. Board members is formed: the Chairperson and two other voting members. The Chairperson of the panel will be the SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. Board Chairperson, who will appoint the other two voting members from the existing SPI Board. If the Chairperson chooses a Complaint Review Panel member who has a personal or financial conflict of interest, that Panel member will be excused from the Panel. If the Chairperson is the subject of the complaint, then the Vice President of SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. will assume the lead role in this process.

The Complaint Review Panel reviews each case individually and then processes the results of the review directly with the individual filing the complaint. The SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. Board grants to the Complaint Review Panel full and final authority to institute corrective action (if any is required).

The Chairperson of the Complaint Review Panel will chair all meetings of the Panel, which will be held, as needed, virtually unless an in-person review is requested and paid for by the complainant. Dates and times for review will be determined by the Chairperson. Panel members and the complainant will be informed of the date at least one (1) month prior to the meeting. All materials available for the review will be provided in writing to the members in advance of the review.

Procedure

1. An individual must submit a written request for a complaint hearing, which must be signed by the individual and notarized, to SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.
2. Following the receipt of the complainant's request, the SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. Board Chairperson shall be notified, as soon as practical. The Board Chairperson will then appoint two members of the SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. Board to serve as the Complaint Review Panel if, in possible consultation with SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.'s legal counsel, the Chairperson feels the complaint is credible and warrants further action.
3. After receipt of a formal complaint and selection of the Complaint Review Panel, the Panel will consider the case as soon as practical.
4. In advance of the review, all supporting materials for the case will be sent to the Complaint Review Panel by SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. staff.

5. At the request of individual members of the Complaint Review Panel, the Chairperson may, but need not, submit additional questions in writing to the complainant. If an individual is the target of the complaint, questions may also be submitted to the subject of the complaint. The complainant and the subject will have the opportunity to respond in writing.
6. Complaint Review Panel members, the subject and the complainant will be informed of the date for the review at least one (1) month prior to the virtual or in-person meeting.
7. If the complainant or the subject desires an opportunity to address the Complaint Review Panel in person or virtually, the complainant may do so but must bear the cost of such in-person review. The complainant and/or subject can contact SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. HQ for an estimate of such costs.
8. The subject of the complaint may be represented by legal counsel at any meeting at which the appellant addresses the Complaint Review Panel, whether in person or by conference call.
9. The voting members of the Complaint Review Panel will review each case and reach a majority decision. The decision of the Complaint Review Panel will be final.
10. The Chairperson of the Complaint Review Panel will send the complainant the Complaint Review Panel's decision in writing by certified mail as soon as practical after the review.
11. Written materials considered in the Complaint Review Process and written decisions of the Complaint Review Panel will be securely stored and retained in at SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.'s HQ within the candidate's/certified technician's file for 3 years.