

Schedule 5 -
Scope of
Independent
Practice for
Registered
Biology
Technologists



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY

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Overview

While RBTechs typically work within a team that includes RPBios, other resource professionals, technicians and others, Rule 7.4.1.2.3 allows for independent practice by RBTechs as presented in this schedule. “Independent Practice” is defined as activities/documentation not requiring the supervision or further sign off by an RPBio, and for which the RBTech may assume full, autonomous accountability.

Principles

Accountability is usually indicated by sign off and/or sealing of documentation. Signing off is a formal acceptance of responsibility for work completed within an individual’s scope of practice and expertise, and is encouraged under the College rules (Rule 13). However, any activities/work undertaken by a College member is subject to the same standard of accountability whether or not that work is formally signed off by the member doing the work.

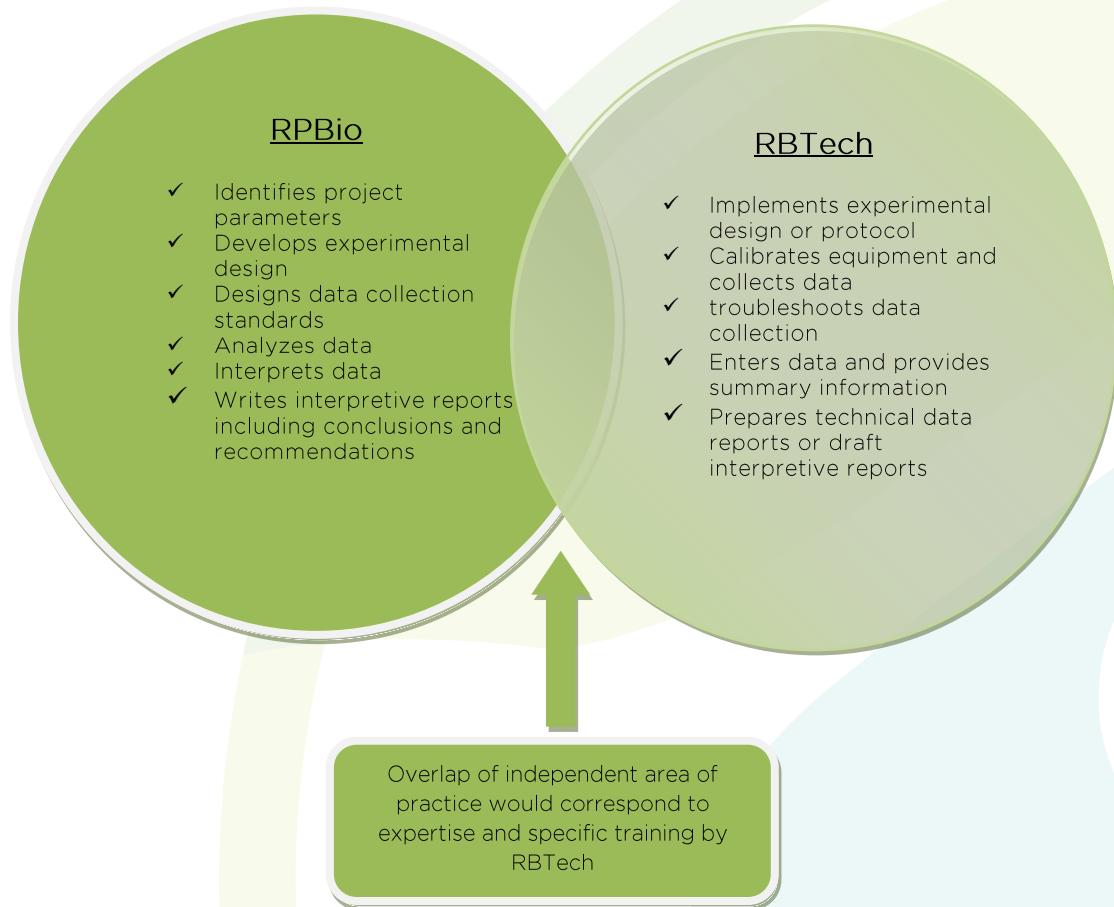
On occasion, regulatory requirements under some statute other than the *College of Applied Biology Act*, or an employer policy, may dictate that an RPBio take responsibility for and sign off certain projects. Nevertheless, depending on the nature of the task an RBTech may have authority pursuant to this schedule to do the work, recommend the signoff, and accept responsibility for that recommendation.

The role of an RBTech reflects the size, analytical complexity and interpretative consequences of the task, as well as the RBTech’s personal experience and expertise. RBTech functions and accountability are generally more narrowly defined and focused than those of RPBios. There is an emphasis operating within established technical parameters, guidelines and protocols.

In contrast, the functions and accountabilities of an RPBio encompass the full depth and breadth of applied biology, including and going beyond those that may be performed and assumed by an RBTech. They are generally more broadly defined and may address full scale habitat and species issues including the design of complex assessments and management regimes to achieve long term outcomes. They often involve full management time frames, integration and interpretation of data from a variety of sources and drawing complex conclusions or prescriptions on which someone will rely.

In all instances College members must practice within the limits of their personal competence, request qualified help when needed, and comply with all other requirements of the *College of Applied Biology Act* and College Rules adopted under the *Act*, as well any other statutory requirements (e.g., other legislation, permit requirements, health and safety, etc.).

The generalized diagram below demonstrates the practice relationship between a RPBio and a RBTech.



Specific Scope of Independent Practice for RBTechs

Consistent with the principles above, following generally accepted protocols, guidelines, and procedures, or those designed and signed-off by an RPBio specific to the project at hand RBTechs may independently:

1. Conduct field, laboratory, or other forms of data collection. This includes the collection, identification, and appropriate handling/storage of biological specimens.
2. Enter, compile, sort and analyse data in accordance with competency (i.e. basic statistical or descriptive statistical analysis)
3. Prepare written technical reports summarizing methodology and results based on data analysis.
4. Provide direct, limited conclusions based on the data collected and its analysis.
5. Install, maintain and calibrate field and laboratory equipment.
6. Supervise others conducting the above activities.

Additional guidance on undertaking independent practice may be found in the College of Applied Biology Registered Biology Technologist Bulletin.

