



ABYC Certification Program Update and FAQs
8/18/2016

Introduction

In an effort to strengthen the value of ABYC's Certified Technician program, two major changes are being implemented. These changes are similar to what other familiar industries have done for many years including the automotive ASE Certification (Automotive Service Excellence). These changes are being driven by our members' requests to improve the quality and reliability of employees entering the boating industry.

Section 1: Certification Designations

ABYC recognizes that many different types of marine industry professionals desire ABYC technical certifications, however not all of those individuals are physically working on boats. Many are in an advisory or consulting position and have a need for the same type of knowledge, but lack the practical skills that are necessary by service and installation technicians. ABYC has created certification designations to better associate the type of work being done by the individual.

Advisor Certification - Designed for people who work within the marine service sector that desire an ABYC certification but do not physically work on boats performing repairs.

Examples: Marine surveyors, customer service representatives and engineering standards compliance specialists.

- Requirements for initial certification: Passing score on certification exam
- Requirements for re-certification: Passing score on re-certification exam + 10 CEUs
- Certifications are valid for 5 years

Technician Certification - Technician certification is the means by which the ABYC and the general public identify those that are actually certified to perform trouble-shooting, repairs and equipment installations on boats.

Examples: Technicians, installers.

- Requirements for initial certification: Passing score on certification exam + 2 years of work experience.
- Requirements for re-certification: Passing score on re-certification exam + 10 CEUs
- Certifications are valid for 5 years

Section 2: Work Experience & Continuing Education Units

Work Experience

In order to obtain a Technician Certification, 2 years of documented work experience in the field related to the certification will be required in addition to passing the certification exam. Related work experience is intended to ensure that technicians are regularly involved in the tasks that they are certified in.



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Example: A technician whose sole responsibility is engine repair is not eligible for an electrical certification.

- Proof of work experience may be submitted using the forms available [HERE](#).
- 1 Year of work experience is defined as 500 hours spent performing certification related hands-on tasks

Continuing Education Units

CEUs have long been used in other industries to promote the continual growth & improvement of certifications. In addition to passing the re-certification exam, 10 CEUs in a related field are required for maintaining certifications.

Substitutions

You may receive credit by substituting relevant formal training.

- Graduates of an [ABYC Marine League School](#) will receive 1 year of Work Experience towards the Technician Certification requirement for their coursework.
- Surveyors who are accredited through marine industry educational partners (such as SAMS (AMS) or NAMS (CMS)) and in good standing with their respective organizations have met the CEU requirement for an Advisor Certification.

Implementation of New Requirements

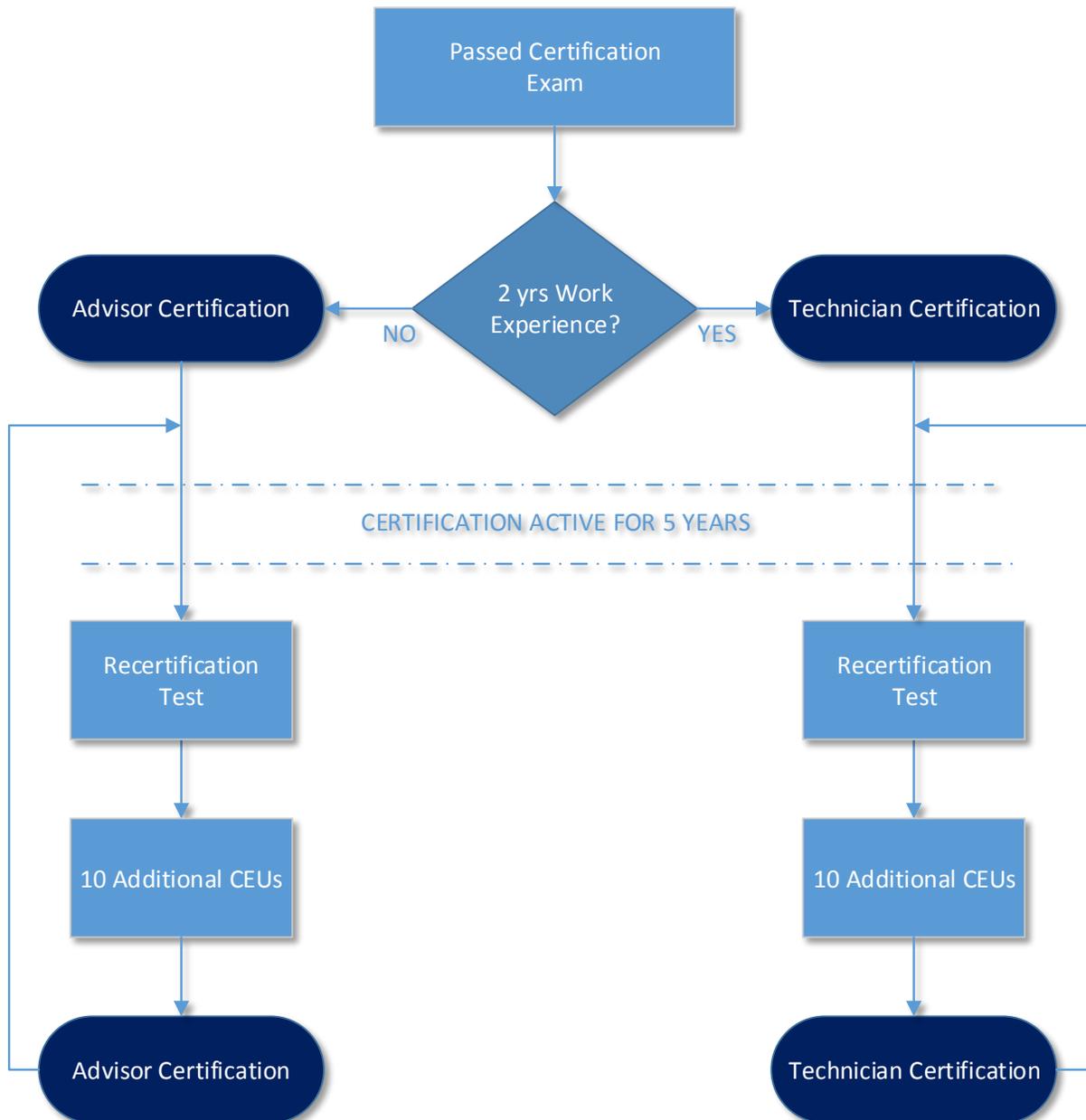
- Official start date of the new requirements policy is January 1, 2017
- New certifications are subject to the new requirements
- Re-certifying candidates are subject to the new requirements as follows:
 - Re-certifying in 2017: No Additional CEUs required. (Grandfathered)
 - This group will not be required to accumulate CEUs until 2022
 - Re-certifying in 2018: CEUs ARE required as described in Section 1



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Flowchart

The following flowchart graphically depicts the path for each of the certification designations:





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FAQs

Why is ABYC making these changes?

ABYC occasionally receives complaints from marine industry employers about new hires that have passed the ABYC certification exam but who really don't have the necessary skills to perform routine trouble-shooting or system installations. ABYC understands that there are many folks who are excellent test takers, but who do not necessarily have the skills implied by the certification when it comes to the hands on tasks addressed on the exam. ABYC realizes there is no substitute for actual hands-on experience. ABYC wants its certifications to continue being recognized as the industry standard for employee certifications so we have raised the bar to achieve that goal.

Who will be affected?

Individuals with current ABYC Certifications will not be affected until their current certification(s) are due for renewal. At that time re-certification candidates will be subject to the new requirements. The exception to this are those who's certifications expire in the 2017 Calendar year so they will have time to accumulate the necessary CEUs for re-certification. (see: *Implementation of New Requirements*, above)

What about young people just starting out or those who have never achieved ABYC certification?

Documenting actual work experience is the most significant component of the new requirements to ABYC's certification process. ABYC will require documentation of at least two years of actual field experience working in the specific area defined by the certification title they are applying for. In the case of people who are just leaving an accredited and recognized post-secondary marine trades program where one of ABYC's certification exams serves as a program completion exam, students will receive one year of work experience credit upon the successful completion of their respective programs. If they successfully pass the certification exam, they will receive an *Advisor Level Certification*. Once they document successful work experience for an additional one year of work, they are eligible for the technician level certification status.

Are there any additional requirements beyond documenting actual work type and experience?

ABYC will require that both Advisory and Technician level certified people maintain their certification by accumulating at least 10 continuing education units (CEU's) during the 5-year period for their certification. These CEU's can be obtained in a number of ways such as attendance at engine manufacturer schools or equipment vendor training sessions or even IBEX sessions. ABYC will offer free online training sessions that can also be applied to the CEU requirements. Certification candidates will be required to document and maintain records for their CEU coursework so that the information can be



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added to their portfolio in the ABYC database. Additionally, the only qualifying CEU's for a given certification must be in a relevant area associated with the specific certification.

Example: An IBEX composites seminar may not be applied towards an ABYC Electrical certification, but an electrical troubleshooting seminar can be applied.