

## **Lead Licensing and Certification Q & A's**

**Ques: What is the purpose of lead licensure and certification?**

**Ans:** Licensing and certification will help ensure that removing lead from homes and child day care facilities will be done carefully. Since children can be poisoned by lead, licensing and certification will help to protect their health. Certification signifies that a worker has completed specific training and is knowledgeable about his or her job.

**Ques: What is the difference between a license and a certificate?**

**Ans:** Licenses are issued to contractors. Certificates are issued to people who do the different kinds of work related to identifying and removing lead from homes and day care centers.

**Ques: Who has to be licensed and who has to be certified?**

**Ans:** Companies or individuals who contract to remove or contain lead in homes and day care centers must be licensed. Companies or individuals who contract to inspect homes for lead, to evaluate the risk of lead poisoning in homes, or to prepare plans to remove or contain lead in homes and day care centers must be licensed also. The contractor must use certified workers to perform the work.

The workers who actually remove or contain lead in homes, inspect homes for lead, evaluate the risk of lead poisoning in homes or prepare plans to remove or contain lead in homes must be certified. Only individuals may hold certificates.

**Ques: Are training courses required for a lead contractor's license application?**

**Ans:** No, training courses are not required for a lead contractor's license.

**Ques: Are training courses required for certification?**

**Ans:** Yes, certification requires successful completion of a training course approved by the Department of Public Health under standards adopted pursuant to section 20-477 of the Connecticut General Statutes. If someone wishes to become certified, a list of training courses approved by the department and applications for certification can be obtained from the Lead Licensing and Certification Program at (860) 509-7559.

**Ques: Are specific education and/or experience requirements necessary for certification beyond completion of an approved initial training course?**

**Ans:** Yes, in some categories. Certification as an abatement supervisor or inspector risk assessor requires specific experience and/or education requirements. These requirements are outlined on the cover of each category's certification application form. There also is an option for certification as a lead inspector which involves certain experience requirements.

**Ques: I've completed a training course and received a course completion certificate, does that mean I am certified?**

**Ans:** No. Only the Connecticut Department of Public Health can certify individuals. Course completion certificates only show that you have successfully completed a training course.

**Ques: Can a person hold a license and a certificate at the same time?**

**Ans:** Yes. In fact an individual who contracts to conduct an inspection and personally performs the inspection must be licensed as a contractor and also certified as an inspector or inspector risk assessor.

**Ques: Can a person hold more than one certificate?**

**Ans:** Yes.

**Ques: Will current licensure or certification in another state help an individual become licensed or certified in Connecticut?**

**Ans:** No, not at this time. However, if an application requires work related experience, a person may list work performed in another state.

**Ques: What are the costs for licensing and certification?**

**Ans:** Licensing and certification application fees are set by statute. The initial licensure application fee and the renewal licensure application fee is \$500. The initial certification application fee and the renewal certification application fee is \$25.

**Ques: What will a company or person have to do to renew a license or a certificate?**

**Ans:** The Department will send a renewal notice and renewal application form 90 days before a license or certificate expires. An individual must take a Connecticut approved refresher course during the year prior to his or her state certification expiration date. Each type of certificate has its own refresher course. The refresher training course taken must be in the same certification category an individual is seeking to renew.

**Ques: Does the owner of a company with certified workers need to be certified himself/herself?**

**Ans:** No, the owner does not need to be certified if he or she will not be performing work in a regulated field (e.g. supervising abatement workers). But the company must be licensed for lead abatement if the company plans to perform lead abatement. The company must be licensed as a lead consulting contractor if the company plans to offer lead consulting services.

**Ques: If a company owner is licensed or his company is licensed, does the company have to use certified workers?**

**Ans:** The company must use certified workers for work which is regulated under

Connecticut General Statutes and Regulations. For example, lead abatement workers must have lead abatement worker certificates.

**Ques: Can a person be certified as a lead abatement worker and start doing lead abatement?**

**Ans:** Yes, only if the person is also a licensed lead abatement contractor or working for a licensed lead abatement contractor. The contractor's workers who perform lead abatement must be certified as lead abatement workers or supervisors. Additionally, a certified abatement supervisor must be present at the active work site.

**Ques: With regard to the certification of lead abatement professionals, can a certified lead abatement supervisor perform a worker's functions and not be required to obtain a lead abatement worker's certificate?**

**Ans:** Yes. However, that person must be working for a licensed lead contractor or be licensed as a lead contractor.

**Ques: I want to do lead inspection work. Can I get a lead inspector certificate and start inspecting homes for lead?**

**Ans:** Not unless you also have a consulting contractor's license or work for a licensed lead consultant contractor. The consultant contractor's workers who perform the actual consulting work, must be certified as consultants.

**Ques: Can someone with an inspector risk assessor certificate do inspections?**

**Ans:** Yes. However, that person must be either working for a licensed lead contractor or be licensed as a lead contractor himself.

**Ques: I want to know more about training courses.**

**Ans:** If you apply for a lead contractor's license, there is no training course requirement. If you apply for certification (abatement supervisor, worker, inspector, inspector risk assessor or planner-project designer), there is a training course requirement. Certification renewal requires successful completion of an approved refresher or initial training course in the particular certification category.

There are two kinds of training courses:

1. Initial training course: for initial certification.
2. Refresher training course: for certification renewal (an initial course can be used to renew certification provided it was taken in the year prior to one's Department of Public Health certification expiration date).

Initial and refresher training courses are approved under the training course standards found in section 20-477 of the Connecticut General Statutes. These courses have only been available since 5/1/1995. If you have taken an initial or refresher course, your training course provider can tell you whether the course is approved under section 20-477 of the Connecticut General Statutes. If you plan to take an initial or refresher course, be sure you understand whether or not it is an approved course. The Department maintains a listing of training course providers who offer Connecticut approved courses.

Each certification application form explains the specific training course requirements. You should call the Department if you need more information about training courses at (860) 509-7559.

**Ques: Can an abatement worker training course be taught in a foreign language?**

**Ans:** The abatement worker training courses are the only courses that may be taught in another language. However, it must be stressed that the abatement supervisor who supervises the workers must be bilingual.

**Ques: Can a training course provider offer a training course completion exam in a non-written form?**

**Ans:** All training course completion examinations must be written.

**Ques: Are application fees refundable?**

**Ans:** All fees are non-refundable. The fee that accompanies an application covers the cost of reviewing and processing the application, it cannot be refunded, even if the applicant is found ineligible.

**Ques: Can you tell me the exact application requirements for a license and for the certificates?**

**Ans:** The exact requirements are explained in each application form. These forms can be obtained by calling the Lead Licensing and Certification Program at (860) 509-7559.

**Ques: A general contractor working on a house subcontracts with a licensed lead contractor to abate lead in all or part of the house. Does the general contractor need to be licensed as a lead contractor?**

**Ans:** No, as long as that general contractor is not performing any of the lead abatement work.

**Ques: If I am the sole employee of a company, do I need to be licensed and certified?**

**Ans:** Yes.

**Ques: My company will be doing work on a commercial/non-residential/public building. Do my company and workers need to be licensed and certified respectively in order to do the work?**

**Ans:** No, *with the exception of child care facilities*. It is not a statutory or regulatory requirement for a company and its workers to be licensed and certified in order to perform work on commercial/non-residential/public buildings. However, it is strongly recommended that personnel should be trained to perform the lead abatement work using safe work practices.

**Ques: Does holding a license mean that a company has certain types and levels of insurance?**

**Ans:** If an applicant for licensure as a lead contractor hires employees, such applicant must comply with the worker's compensation insurance requirements of Section 31-284 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Applicants for licensure must submit proof of compliance with these requirements. It is also wise for a property owner who is hiring a

contractor to ask for proof of other types of insurance, such as liability insurance, whenever he is contracting a consulting firm or abatement company.

**Ques: Must I hire certified lead abatement professionals when I am renovating or remodeling my home?**

**Ans:** Renovating and remodeling are not considered abatement activities. However a number of situations could require or encourage contracting the services of trained abatement professionals. These include:

- a) if there are existing deteriorated or defective lead-based surfaces and a child under the age of six resides in the dwelling.
- b) if renovation or remodeling activities will disturb a surface that contains a toxic level of lead and a child less than six years old resides in the dwelling.
- c) if you have reason to believe there may be surfaces painted with lead-based paint and you want to make sure the contractor you are hiring will do the renovation and remodeling competently and safely.

In an effort to keep abatement costs down, property owners may want to consider contracting certified lead abatement professionals to safely remove the hazardous materials and then hiring a general renovating/remodeling contractor to complete the renovations.

**Ques: I want to hire a contractor to detect lead or remove lead at my home. They say they are licensed, how can I be sure?**

**Ans:** The Department of Public Health produces a license which is sent to each contractor upon approval. The name and signature of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, an expiration date and a license number (consisting of six digits) are contained on each license.

If you are still unsure, the licensure of an individual contractor can be verified by calling the Lead Licensing and Certification Program at (860) 509-7559. If you wish to verify a contractor license, provide as much information as possible (if you provide the program with the contractor's supposed license number, the time taken for verifying the contractor will be lessened).

**Ques: Can a homeowner do his/her own lead abatement without being licensed or certified?**

**Ans:** Yes, in most cases. Homeowners may be exempt from the licensing and certification requirement per §20-275 and §20-276 of the Connecticut General Statutes. As long as the homeowner is not representing himself as a lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead consultant, lead abatement supervisor or a lead abatement worker, and he does not principally engage in such work in this state, he does not need to be licensed or certified. However, he still must submit a lead abatement plan with the local health department. This plan must be reviewed and found acceptable by the local director of health and the homeowner must perform all lead abatement activities using safe work practices per Connecticut State Agencies Regulations §19a-111-1 through 19a-111-11. To assist homeowners, single copies of guidance documents are available free-of-charge upon request from the Connecticut Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (860) 509-7299.

**Ques: Who can design a lead abatement project?**

**Ans:** An individual certified as a planner-project designer or the owner of the property may design a lead abatement project. Regardless of who designs the project, a lead abatement plan must be submitted to the local health department. This plan must be reviewed and found acceptable by the local director of health and all lead abatement activities must be performed using safe work practices per Connecticut State Agencies Regulations §19a-111-1 through 19a-111-11. Single copies of guidance documents are available free-of-charge upon request from the Connecticut Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (860) 509-7299.

**Ques: I still have a few more questions. Can I call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program or the Lead Licensing and Certification Program for more information?**

**Ans:** Yes. Specific questions regarding licensing and certification may be directed to the Lead Licensing and Certification Program at (860) 509-7559. General lead-related questions may be directed to the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (860) 509-7299.

Or you can write:

Lead Licensing and Certification Program  
Applications and Examinations Section  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS# 12APP  
P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS# 51 LED  
P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308