



NCLC LASER CERTIFICATION RENEWALS AMNESTY PROGRAM, & REMOTE TESTING

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The National Council on Laser Certification (NCLC) was founded in the year 2000 as a Credentialing Board of the non-profit Professional Medical Education Assn (PME), established itself in 1978. The NCLC was then incorporated as its own stand-alone non-profit organization in 2011. This year, 2020, marks the 20th anniversary of the NCLC and the Laser Certification process. It is a desirable Professional Credential that sets one apart from the rest. Although most U.S. States and other Countries have no licensing requirements for aesthetic types of laser procedures, they are beginning to initiate those. Some of those States in the U.S., and countries such as United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and others, are accepting an NCLC Laser Certification as part of their requirement for State licensing. The American National Standards Institute Z136.3 committee on Safe Use of Lasers in Healthcare Facilities now recommends obtaining a Certification for the Medical Laser Safety Officer. Remember that a Certification is a separate progressive step up from training.

The NCLC offers several types of Laser Certifications including those for Aesthetic Laser Operators, the more limited Hair Removal Specialists, Laser Safety Officers, and Laser Repair Technicians. Certifications are active for a three-year period and must be renewed at the end of three years, to include showing continued competency through continuing education in their field of specialization, or an attestation form from their medical director or administrative supervisor. There are now several thousand individuals with an NCLC Laser Certification.

Issues have arisen with Certified Individuals "forgetting" to renew in a timely fashion. In some cases, this has caused them to lose or jeopardize their State license to practice because it requires an "active" Certification. In addition to these lapses, the COVID crisis in 2020 has also significantly contributed to individuals missing their renewals – for a variety of reasons.

For these reasons the NCLC is now instituting an Amnesty program to allow individuals to reactivate their Certification and bring it current, just by paying the one renewal fee of \$95 USD without the penalties, regardless of how many renewal cycles they missed. You will also NOT need to re-take the examination for this, as would have been ordinarily required. In order to be fair to those individuals who have maintained their active status without letting it lapse, they will receive their next renewal at no charge. Renewal forms are available on the website at <https://lasercertification.org/LaserCertificationRenewalApplication2001.pdf> . In the comments section just write in that you would like to renew your Certification under the Amnesty program (if you've let it lapse) and you will be forgiven the past fees and allowed to renew without retesting.

This amnesty program will terminate on March 31 of 2021. (NOTE – we have extended this to Sept 30, 2021 because of ongoing COVID issues)

Besides the application form, you will still need to meet the requirements (but only for the last 3 years) of 24 hours or more of continuing education IN YOUR FIELD – not necessarily laser. If you are a nurse for instance, and you've submitted training to your State Nursing Board for relicensure, then those same programs may be submitted to the NCLC to meet that requirement – laser or not. You may submit those documents with your application, or alternatively the application has an attestation form for your medical director or administrative supervisor that attests to equivalent ongoing education in your job.

Many people hold more than one NCLC Laser Certification. The existing rules say that when you gain an additional Certification, that will automatically renew your existing Certification(s) up to the same date as the one you just earned. When you renew one Certification under this amnesty program, we will bring all of your Certifications up to that date. The \$95 fee will still apply to each separate Certification.

The NCLC will be initiating other actions to minimize these lapses in renewals in the future. We have previously relied upon the applicant to renew in a timely fashion, based on the statement that they signed when taking the initial examination that they would do this. People forget. We will start sending out reminder notices 30-45 days in advance of the renewal date beginning Feb 2022.

Secondly, we are changing the renewal dates for everyone to March 31st, beginning in 2021, rather than 3 years from the date of initial testing as now printed on the Certifications. In order to bring everyone together for this date, those whose Certifications will expire in the last half of 2020 will automatically be extended (at no charge) to March 31 of the next year. Don't wait for that date though – renew now when due and it will be extended to March 31 in the year following the 3 years. (For those in States requiring a current Certification, DO NOT let your Certificate go past the renewal date. The NCLC may renew it by March of next year, but those States will not recognize that. Renew on time.) Please do not wait until the last minute for renewals, and reminders will now be sent out in February of each year beginning in 2022. For those whose Certifications remain active past 2021, when it comes time to renew you will also be extended automatically to March 31st in the year following the expiration of your Certification – at no charge for those additional months. Setting one date for renewals for everyone will increase the administrative efficiency and help ensure renewals are noticed on a timely basis. When you first obtain your Certification, the active date on the Certificate will be extended to the following March past the 3 years to bring all into synchrony, with no additional charge for the added months.

RECIPROCITY WITH BLS SAFETY OFFICER, AND SCMHR LASER HAIR REMOVAL CERTIFICATIONS -

This is an existing policy of the NCLC to recognize these other Certifications. The BLS and NCLC initially worked together on the Safety Officer Certification. The SCMHR offers a hair removal Certification, but nothing else for Aesthetics nor Safety Officers. If you hold either of these other Certifications, the NCLC offers full reciprocity and will issue the equivalent NCLC Laser Certification to you at no charge, upon request. You may find advantages in the added recognition that the NCLC provides, and reasonable renewal requirements.

SECURED, ONLINE CERTIFICATION EXAMS - Because of the COVID crisis, our testing agency, ETA International, is now working with another agency to offer secure, monitored online remote testing from your own computer at your location for Certification exams. This will make it MUCH easier and

convenient for people to schedule these Certification exams and not have to travel. Contact us for details.

If your NCLC Laser Certification is out of date, then I'd encourage you to take advantage of this amnesty program and renew as soon as possible. More States and Government Agencies are headed in this direction so it pays to be pro-active. In the near future, our Registry list of Certified individuals will be posted on our website for public and government agency review, including your status of active or inactive. If you have any questions about this program, or any other questions about Certifications – either initial or renewals, then please feel free to contact me personally. It's generally easier to reach me by email or my cell phone than it is the office, but the numbers are:

Office: 305.407.8901, Email: Absten@LaserCertification.org, Cell Ph: 305.849.0285.

For those of you just exploring the Laser Certification process, or addressing renewal issues, there is a 9 minute video overview of this at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPlnFyWRwTQ&t=327s> on our Laser Training You Tube Channel.

Regards,



Gregory Absten

Chairman, National Council on Laser Certification, Inc.

Executive Director, Professional Medical Education Association, Inc.