



## NCLC LASER CERTIFICATION RENEWALS & 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. 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, some 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, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is starting to require that as part of LSO licensing. Remember that a Certification is a separate progressive step up from training. Anyone that has documented laser training, met the other background requirements, and passes the NCLC Certification exam, may earn these certifications.

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.

The NCLC now has a 1 year "grace" period for individuals forgetting to renew their certification. Each certification certificate has the date of expiration printed on it, so that you can see when that is. For one year past that expiration date, you may renew your certification without having to retest, and you'll pay the regular renewal rate, plus a \$50 late charge.

Besides the renewal 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. The same for aesthetics, or biomedical engineers. 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.

The renewal application form and instructions are available on the page  
<https://lascertification.org/Renewals.html>.

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 program, we will bring all your Certifications up to that date. The \$95 fee will still apply to each separate Certification. (prorated if necessary)

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 2024

Secondly, we have changed the renewal dates for everyone to March 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning in 2021, rather than from the date of initial testing as now printed on the Certifications. Renew now when due and it will be extended to March 31 in the year following the 3 years at no additional charge. (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 if expired. Renew on time.) Please do not wait until the last minute for renewals, and reminders will be sent out in February. Setting one date for renewals for everyone will increase the administrative efficiency and help ensure renewals are noticed on a timely basis.

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

This is an existing policy of the NCLC to recognize these other Certifications. The BLS initially worked with the already established NCLC 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 offering 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. We do work with some affiliated laser training programs worldwide, and these courses offer the NCLC exams at the end of their training courses.

If your NCLC Laser Certification is out of date, then I'd encourage you to renew as soon as possible. Soon, our Registry list of Certified individuals will be posted on our website for public 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](mailto:Absten@LaserCertification.org), Cell Ph: 305.849.0285.

Regards,



Gregory Absten

Chairman, National Council on Laser Certification, Inc.

Executive Director, Professional Medical Education Association, Inc.