

Clarifying the Origins of Medical Laser Safety Officer Certifications

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The **National Council on Laser Certification (NCLC)**, a division of the non-profit **Professional Medical Education Association, Inc (PME)**, established the original MLSO certification program in **2000** prior to the creation of the Board of Laser Safety (BLS). PME itself was established in **1978** as a non-profit continuing medical education organization.

In **2006**, PME entered into a formal agreement with the BLS (affiliated with the Laser Institute of America) at their request which consolidated our efforts under a joint certification program, and the agreement specified that the BLS would operate under the umbrella of the NCLC. That collaboration, which included mutual recognition and shared standards, remained in effect until its official termination in **2014**.

Because the wording in that agreement included mutual recognition of both programs and shared standards, the NCLC continues to offer full reciprocity for any BLS Medical Laser Safety Officer Certification.

The BLS is an offshoot of the Laser Institute of America (LIA). PME has a long standing history with the LIA. In 1982 Gregory Absten from PME flew to Toledo Ohio (where the LIA's corporate offices were at the time) to meet with the LIA executive director Haynes Lee. PME assisted the LIA in creating their own medical laser training activities, separate from PME. Mr Absten has been an active member of the LIA since that time. The BLS is now a separate entity from the LIA, but the LIA still holds the trademark on their CMLSO acronym (but not the phrase Certified Medical Laser Safety Officer) and the BLS is still run from the LIA offices.

PME and its two operating divisions The Laser Training Institute and National Council on Laser Certification are run from the corporate office in Columbus Ohio.

The NCLC additionally offers Laser Certifications for Aesthetic Laser Operators, Laser Hair Removal Specialists and Supervisors, and Laser Repair Technicians. The NCLC also operates the International Laser Certification Registry™ at <https://NCLC.clubexpress.com>.

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Executive Director, Professional Medical Education Assn., and the divisions of:

The Laser Training Institute – <https://LaserTraining.org>

National Council on Laser Certification – <https://NCLC.clubexpress.com>

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