

Certification Program

The Department issues certification cards for Testers and Specialists on a 2-year certification cycle. Certifications expire on December 31st every two years based upon the first letter in the last name of the individual. Individuals with a last name beginning with A-K expire in even numbered years, and individuals with last names beginning with L-Z expire in odd numbered years.

New applicants will receive cards that expire less than 2 years from the issue date, depending on when they apply. The \$195.00 fee for more than one year is prorated to \$97.50 for the last 12 months, or less, of the certification cycle.

If any of your contact information changes it is your responsibility to contact the Program with these changes. Failure to notify the Program of an address change will result in delayed renewal and in some cases lapsed certifications.

New Applicants

The following requirements must be met to qualify for Cross Connection Specialist certification:

- Successful completion of an approved Cross Connection Specialist initial course (4 day) within 12 months of submitting a certification application.
- A list of approved backflow tester courses can be found under [Approved Training](#)
- Certifications expire on December 31st every two years based upon the first letter in the last name of the individual.
 - A-K expire in even numbered years
 - L-Z expire in odd numbered years
- When you submit your completed and signed application for certification include the following:
 - A copy of your high school diploma (a transcript is acceptable), GED, Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or PhD.
 - Proof of one year in the water industry. This could be one year as a Backflow Assembly Tester, a copy of your operator certification, or a letter from your employer.
 - Initial application fee of \$195.00 (prorated to \$97.50 for the last 12 months of the certification cycle)
- There are two ways to pay your certification fees. See [Payment Information](#).

Renewal

Individual renewal forms will be mailed to all current Specialists. Renewal forms are not available on-line.

The following requirements must be completed in order to maintain your Cross Connection Specialist certification:

- Successful completion of an approved Cross Connection Specialist renewal course or 0.6 CEUs in water related meetings or classes taken within the prior 2-year certification period.
- Application fee of \$195.00 for a single certification or \$305.00 for both a Tester & Specialist certification.
 - There is a \$50.00 reinstatement fee if it is submitted after January 31st
- There are two ways to pay your certification fees. See [Payment Information](#).

Lapsed Certificates

- A certification that has lapsed for **less than 31 days** may be reinstated by meeting the normal renewal requirements.
- A certification that has lapsed for **more than 31 days** but less than 1 year may be reinstated by meeting the normal renewal requirements and paying a \$50.00 reinstatement fee in addition to the \$195.00 renewal fee (\$245.00 total).
- A certification that has lapsed for **more than 1 year** may only be reinstated by meeting the requirements for new applicants (this includes re-taking the 40 hour class) and paying the \$195.00 renewal fee.

Reciprocity Requirements

The DWS may issue a Cross Connection Specialist certificate based on reciprocity if the issuing State has standards and qualifications that are equivalent to DWS standards and qualifications.

- Submit a completed reciprocity application and include the following:
 - A copy of your current backflow cross connection specialist certification from another State.
 - A copy of your course completion certificate from a DWS approved cross connection renewal course taken within the last 12 months prior to submitting the application.
 - A copy of your High School diploma, GED diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or PHD.
 - Proof of one year in the water industry. This could be one year as a Backflow Assembly Tester, a copy of your operator certification, or a letter from your employer. Submit proof of one year's experience in the water industry.
 - Reciprocity application fee of \$230.00 (prorated to \$132.50 for the last 12 months, or less, of the certification cycle).
- There are two ways to pay your certification fees. See [Payment Information](#).

Payment Information

We are not able to take cash transfers, or purchase orders.

- **Check:**
 - **Check:** Make checks payable to: **OHA Cashier**. Sign and send all documents to: OHA Cashier; PO Box 14260; Portland, OR 97293
- **Credit Card:**
 - **Credit Card:** pay online www.healthoregon.org/specialistcertification. If you have never been certified enter 0000 as your certification #. Sign & send all documents by mail, email, or fax:
Mail: DWS - Cross Connection; PO Box 14260; Portland, OR 97293
Email: cross.connection@state.or.us
Fax: 971-673-0694
- **Cash:**
 - DO NOT MAIL CASH
 - Bring cash, completed application, and attachments to the Cashier's Office, on the 2nd Floor, **800 NE Oregon St, Portland, OR 9797232**

Contact the Program

Drinking Water Services | Cross Connection & Backflow Prevention Program

Molly Keller

Phone: 971-673-0418 | molly.a.keller@state.or.us

DWS – Cross Connection

PO Box 14450

Portland OR 97293

Fax: 971-673-0694 **Email:** cross.connection@state.or.us **Website:** www.healthoregon.org/testercertification

Approved Training

- Backflow Management, Inc. (BMI)
Phone: 503-255-1619 or 800-841-7689
www.bmi-backflow.com
- Clackamas Community College
Phone: 503-594-3345
<http://www.clackamas.edu/WET/Backflow/>
- Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)
Phone: 541-984-4747
www.eweb.org
- Northwest Cross Connection Training
Phone: 541-971-9824
- Local 290 (for 290 members only)
Phone: 503-691-1997
www.ua290.org

Additional Contacts

- Construction Contractor's Board (CCB)
Phone: (503) 378-4621
Email ccb.info@state.or.us
- Landscape Contractor's Board (LCB)
Phone: (503) 967-6291
Email: lcbinfo@lcb.state.or.us