Recertification BUSTERS

Do you have to take the recertification examination (formerly called the SARE) to recertify? We are here to dispel a few myths around the recertification examination for you! If you have more questions, please contact us.

**MYTH: The recertification examination is a paper test.**

FACT: The recertification examination is an online examination, which you may take from any computer with access to the internet.

**MYTH: The recertification examination has essay questions.**

FACT: The recertification examination is a multiple-choice exam, composed of 150 questions (only 135 of which are scored). It is set-up similarly to the initial certification examination; the difference is that you may take it from any computer connected to the internet, and it is not timed. However, you must submit it by December 31st of your recertification year.

**MYTH: The recertification examination takes an entire year to complete.**

FACT: You have the entire fifth year of your certification cycle to complete the recertification examination; however, you may submit the examination at any time. In order to keep your certification from lapsing, it must be submitted by 11:59pm GMT/7:59pm ET on December 31st of your recertification year, though we do recommend turning it in on December 30th to ensure everything is submitted correctly. You may take the recertification examination all at once, or answer as many questions as you would like, save it, and come back to check answers or continue answering questions at a later date.

**MYTH: The recertification examination is a more difficult exam than the initial certification examination.**

FACT: Like the initial certification examination, the recertification examination questions are based on the most current CBIC practice analysis, and the content outline is identical as that used for the initial certification examination. The questions developed for both examinations are held to the same standards and analysis. The recertification examination is set-up similarly to the initial certification examination in that is 150 multiple-choice questions taken in an online exam format. However, you may take the exam from any computer with a connection to the internet, and you may save the test at any point and come back to questions later. The recertification examination enables the infection prevention and control professional to use the examination as an educational opportunity, as recertifiers have the entire year to complete the examination with opportunities to revise responses. The recertification examination supports the concept of growth from novice to expert, and seeks to enable the infection prevention and control professional, regardless of setting, to have the opportunity to demonstrate the professional growth that the infection prevention and control community has supported and indicated as both necessary and expected.
MYTH: The recertification examination is more expensive than the initial certification examination.

FACT: The recertification examination is $325. The initial certification examination is $350.

MYTH: The recertification examination is extremely difficult to pass.

FACT: In 2014, a little over two-thirds of recertifiers chose to take the recertification examination to recertify and 94.66% passed. (Note: in 2014 there were two methods of recertification available; beginning in 2016, CICs may only recertify using the recertification examination)

MYTH: I can take the recertification examination in a group setting and I can submit the one exam for everyone participating in answering the questions for scoring.

FACT: While the recertification examination is open book, it is not a group exam and every CIC® recertifying must submit their own answers and exam. Candidates are forbidden from describing or sharing examination content. All exam questions are protected by copyright. Federal law provides severe civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized reproduction, distribution, or exhibition of copyrighted materials.

MYTH: The recertification examination will send an email once I have submitted it, which will include my score and whether I passed or failed.

FACT: Once you have completed and submitted the recertification examination, a screen will pop-up with your name and whether you passed or failed. CBIC will send out your score within 4-6 weeks, along with the certificate if you pass. If you do not pass, you will receive information on next steps.

MYTH: If I do not want to take the recertification examination, I can let my certification lapse and take the initial certification examination the year after it expires.

FACT: You will not be able to use your CIC® designation until you have successfully taken and passed the initial certification examination again. If you incorrectly use the designation, you will be subject to fines and potentially banned from sitting for certification again. Along with this, you will need to meet the eligibility requirements for initial certification to sit for the exam again. The eligibility requirements changed as of July 1, 2015, so be advised that if you let your certification lapse, you may not be able to take the exam to certify once again.