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Mold Remediation Certification Programs



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In the last few years, several mold remediation certification programs have been created, leaving many remediators confused about the differences among these programs.

To alleviate some of this confusion, this article discusses the four best-known programs, their sponsoring organizations and certification processes. All of the programs are administered by third-party, non-profit organizations. A table summarizing the information is provided here. Programs are presented in chronological order by the date the certification became available.

This information is accurate as of January 2003. However, always check with each

organization for up-to-date information.

AmIAQ Council



*American Indoor Air Quality
Council
Post Office Box 11599
Glendale, AZ 85308
(800) 942-0832
www.iaqcouncil.org*

The American Indoor Air Quality Council is an organization established in 1993 to collect information about indoor air quality issues and disseminate it to its 3,200 members.

The AmIAQ provides several mold-related certification programs for different professions. The one most appropriate for those involved in professional mold remediation is Certified Microbial Remediation Supervisor, CMRS, which became available in January 2001. About 900 people currently hold this certification.

Requirements: Two years experience in remediation or a related field, although exceptions may be made. Approved three-day class. Passing score on the examination.

Test: Three hours. Closed-book. 100 questions. Score of 70 percent or more.

Test Fees: \$300.00 for AmIAQ members. \$400.00 for non-members.

Certification Period: Three years.

Renewal Requirements/Fees: Twelve Continuing Education Credits must be accumulated within three years. The renewal fee is \$300.00 and extends certification for an additional three years.

IAQA



*Indoor Air Quality Association
12339 Carroll Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 231-8388
www.iaqa.org*

The Indoor Air Quality Association is a trade association founded in 1995 to promote uniform standards, procedures and protocols in the indoor air quality industry. Its mission is to bring together the many different disciplines (HVAC engineers, remediation contractors, attorneys, physicians, etc.) involved with the issue of indoor air quality and to promote the development of multi-disciplinary approaches to solving indoor air quality problems. IAQA has more than 2,300 members.

IAQA began offering certification in mold remediation in June 2001 with its Certified Mold Remediator. There are presently 2,900 CMRs.

Requirements: Five years experience in a related field (up to four years of which can be post-secondary education). Attendance at an approved three-day class. Passing score on the examination.

Testing: Three hours. Open book. 131 questions. Score of 70% or more.

Test Fees: \$195.00 for IAQA members. \$295.00 for non-members.

Certification Period: Two years.

Renewal Requirements/Fees: To renew certification, the CMR may either retake the examination or prove continuing education. Renewal fee is \$100.00 for members, \$200.00 for non-members. Certification is extended for a period of two years.

IICRC



*Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification
2715 E. Mill Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 693-5675
www.iicrc.org*

The Institute for Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification was established in 1972 as a standards-writing and certification body for the cleaning, restoration, and inspection industries. Currently, it has about 23,000 registrants.

Speaking of mold remediation and standards, IICRC is developing a Mold Remediation

Standard S520, similar to its Water Damage Restoration Standard S500, which is scheduled for publication this summer.

The IICRC program has two remediation-related certifications available. Training is through approved schools. Certification is through IICRC, covering mold and other microbial remediation issues.

AMRT: The Applied Microbial Remediation Technician program began in May 2002. There are currently 166 AMRT certificants.

Requirements: Four-day course of study through an approved school. Pass the examination. Certification as an IICRC Water Restoration Technician must be achieved (either prior to or following the mold remediation course and examination are taken) before AMRT certification is issued.

Testing: Closed book. 150 questions. Score of 75% or more.

Test Fee: \$150.00.

Certification Period: The period of certification is indefinite if continuing education requirements are met.

Renewal Requirements/Fees: One CEC per year, with a minimum of one one-day IICRC-approved refresher course every other year taught by an IICRC-approved instructor. Registration fee is \$60.00 per year.

AMRS: The IICRC has also developed a program of advanced

certification, Applied Microbial Remediation Specialist.

Requirements: AMRT certification, and either HST (Health and Safety Technician through IICRC) or OSHA 10-hour course certification.

The candidate must also be able to document 10 mold remediation projects or 1,000 hours mold remediation experience in the year immediately prior to application for AMRS. This year must be following AMRT certification.

Testing and Test Fees: N/A

Certification Period and Renewal Requirements/Fees: Same as AMRT.

Since a full year has not elapsed since the issuance of the first AMRT certification, there are currently no holders of the AMRS certification.

ASCR



*Association of Specialists in
Cleaning and Restoration*
8229 Cloverleaf Drive, Suite 460
Millersville, MD 21108-1538
(800) 279-9900
www.ascr.org

The Association of Specialists in Cleaning and Restoration was founded in 1946 as a trade association for cleaning and restoration professionals worldwide. It presently has about 1,350 members. ASCR recently spun off an educational foundation, which handles all its training programs. It is in the process of completing development of a three-level training program in mold and other types of microbial remediation.

ASCR training for Level 1, Mold Remediation Technician was offered beginning in April 2002. 650 students have successfully completed this

program. First level certification is prerequisite to the second level certification, Mold Remediation Specialist, MRS, which began in September 2002. 40 students have attained this level. Second level certification is prerequisite to the third level certification, Certified Mold Professional, CMP, which will be offered starting in 2003.

Requirements: Attend a three-day course of study for Level 1, two more days for Level 2; and three more days for Level 3. Each course has an exam that must be passed. ASCR will substitute courses judged equivalent from other providers.

Testing: Closed book. 100 questions. Score of 80% or more for all classes.

Test Fees: Included in class fee.

Certification Period: Three years for all certifications.

Renewal Requirements/Fees: Specifics of a continuing education requirement will be adopted in 2003.

Mold/Microbial Certifications Compared

	Association of Specialists in Cleaning and Restoration Foundation (ASCR)	American Indoor Air Quality Council (AIAQ)	Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA)	Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)
Contact	800-272-7012 www.ascr.org	800-942-0832 www.iaqcouncil.org	301-231-8388 www.iaqa.org	360-693-5675 www.iicrc.org
Founded	1946	1993	1995	1972
Stated purpose	Trade association and educational foundation for cleaning and restoration professionals worldwide	Source for the collection and dissemination of indoor air quality information to members	Promote uniform standards, procedures and protocols in the IAQ industry. Multi-disciplinary focus	Certification and standards-writing body for cleaning, restoration and inspection industries
Number of members	1,350 member companies	3,200 members	2,300 members	23,000 registrants
Certification title(s)	1. Mold Remediation Technician 2. Mold Remediation Specialist 3. Certified Mold Professional Each level is prerequisite for the next in the series	Certified Microbial Remediation Supervisor (CMRS) Others	Certified Mold Remediator (CMR)	Applied Microbial Remediation Technician (AMRT) Applied Microbial Remediation Specialist (AMRS)
Areas included	Mold and other microbial issues	Mold issues	Mold issues	Mold and other microbial issues
Date first certification	1) April 2002 2) September 2002	January 2001	June 2001	May 2002
Number of certificants	1) 650 2) 40	900 (CMRS only)	2,900	AMRT: 166 AMRS: 0
Prerequisites to achieve certification	Cumulative. Each level builds on the certification(s) below it	2 years experience in "relevant field"	5 years experience in "related field" Up to 4 years can be post-secondary education	AMRT: WRT before/after AMRS: AMRT, HST or OSHA 10 hr course, 10 projects or 1000 hours verified experience after achieving AMRT in year before application (see text)
Number of schools	ASCR delivers the program	4	4	4
Class days	MRTC: 3 MRSC: 2 CMP: 3	3	3	4
Test questions #	MRTC: 100 MRSC: 100 CMP: 100	100	131	150
Type	Closed book, multiple choice	Closed book, multiple choice	Open book, multiple choice	Closed book, multiple choice
Passing score	All exams 80%	70%	70%	75%
Test fee	Included in class fee	Members: \$300 Non-members: \$400	Members: \$195 Non-members: \$295	\$150
Duration	3 years	3 year	2 years	Indefinite, if CECs are met
Required to maintain or re-certify, renewal fee	Continuing education program to be introduced in 2003	12 technical credits in 3 years, \$300 fee	Prove continuing education, or retake examination, Members: \$100; Non-members: \$200	1 CEC per year One day refresher course every other year taught by approved instructor, \$60/year

Note: This information is believed to be accurate as of January 2003. Contact individual organizations for complete and updated information.