Government of the District of Columbia
District Department of the Environment

Lead and Healthy Housing Division
Compliance & Enforcement Branch

District of Columbia Lead-Based Paint Activities Certification Examination
Frequently Asked Questions

What are certification exams?

Certification exams are required for the disciplines of Lead Inspector, Lead Risk Assessor and Abatement Supervisor to be certified in the District of Columbia.

Which certification exams are administered by the District of Columbia?

The lead-based paint certification exams administered by the District of Columbia are the EPA Lead Inspector, Lead Risk Assessor, Lead Abatement Supervisor national exams and the District of Columbia (D.C.) law exam. Each discipline exam is offered in English and Spanish.

Where and when can I take the certification exams?

The exams are administered every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1200 First Street, NE 5th floor unless a holiday or room availability requires that we change the date.

Does the District of Columbia have reciprocity with other states?

The District of Columbia does not have an official reciprocity agreement with any State; however, we do accept current appropriate certification and certification exam scores from EPA or an EPA-approved state program subject to verification. However, before an individual is granted reciprocity by D.C., they must take and pass the D.C. specific lead law exam. The certification and the certification exam score must be for a D.C. discipline. Please note that a certification exam is not required for the ABATEMENT WORKER discipline.

How many questions are on each exam?

The Lead Inspector and Lead Abatement Supervisor exams are 100 questions. The Lead Risk Assessor exam is 110 questions. The D.C. law exam is 20 questions.

What is considered a passing score?

A passing score for the certification exams is 70% or higher.

How much time is given for each exam?

The District of Columbia allows two (2) hours for the Lead Inspector, Lead Risk Assessor and Lead Abatement Supervisor exams and one (1) hour for the D.C. law exam. The examination times can increase if the administrator deems it necessary.

Is there a cost for the certification exams?

No

What materials should I use to study for the certification exams?
Study materials for the exams include all items distributed during the training course and any additional items available to the individual. To prepare for the D.C. law exam, individuals should review the D.C. law. Additionally, instructions on how to find the D.C. law is available at www.ddoe.dc.gov , click on Lead and Healthy Housing listed under DDOE services, then click on About the District's Lead Law listed under Where can I get more information?

How can I register to take the certification exams?

Individuals can register for the exams by calling 202-535-1934. Individuals will be asked to provide their name, the month in which they would like to take the exams, which exam they need to take and a contact number. Also, please inform us if a Spanish language exam or special assistance is needed.

Does the District of Columbia offer six (6) month interim certification?

No. Effective July 25, 2011.

What will happen if I fail the certification exams?

If individuals do not score a 70% or better on the certification exams, they are allowed to re-take the exam three times within six (6) months of the certification training course. If the discipline certification exam *and* D.C. law exam are not passed within six (6) months, the individual must retake the certification course from an accredited training provider before being allowed to take the certification exams again.

What is the process after I pass the certification exams?

The process will depend on several variables such as when the accredited training course certificate expires and the date of the liability insurance for Lead Risk Assessors and other items. Compliance and Enforcement staff will go over next steps on a one-on-one basis with each applicant.

How can I apply for certification?

The applications are available at www.green.dc.gov , click on Lead and Healthy Housing listed under DDOE services. Applications are also available at 1200 First Street, NE 5th floor. The entire application booklet should be reviewed to ensure the individual has all the correct documents required for certification. Individuals can apply for certification at 1200 First Street, NE 5th floor between the hours of 8:30am - 4:45pm Monday through Friday.

Lead-Based Paint 2013 Certification Exam Dates

Location:
1200 First Street, NE 5th Floor

Discipline Exams 10am-12noon
D.C. Law Exam 12noon-1pm

January 16, 2013

February 20, 2013

March 20, 2013

April 17, 2013

May 15, 2013

June 19, 2013

July 17, 2013

August 21, 2013

September 18, 2013

October 16, 2013

November 20, 2013

December 18, 2013