



## IAQTI Contractor's Guide to Certification

The IAQ Training Institute, LLC provides Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA) approved training courses that can stand alone as proof of attendance at a training program and/or as certification exam prep course. Our programs also prepare people for **\*third party accredited** certifications or state licensing programs. Some state licensing programs require third party accreditation. Third party accredited certifications typically do not require a specific training course prior to certification but they can and do require verification of one's level of experience, education and knowledgebase. Some state licensing programs do require verification of training and/or third party accredited certifications. IAQA/IAQTI course certificates are accepted in most states.

**IAQ Training Institute could have taken the easier (and more lucrative) path of claiming to “certify” people that attend our courses, but we have chosen a different path and it has served our clients well.** See why under the Benefits of Attending section of this document.

The following tables summarize the major certification programs IAQTI mold remediation training courses prepare attendees for. We do not recommend or support any other certification programs specific to indoor environmental quality or mold remediation. Most of these programs are really a training course with an

### American Council for Accredited Certification (ACAC) ACAC Third Party Accredited Certifications ([www.acac.org](http://www.acac.org)) Contractor's Guide

ACAC Certification	IAQTI Course for certification prep	Exam Fee (1st Time) /Certification Fee (for 2 yrs)	Required Experience
<b>Contracting Microbial</b>			
<b>Certified Microbial Remediation Supervisor (CMRS)</b>	IAQA Mold Remediation Supervisor	\$100/ \$300	5 yrs field experience in microbial remediation
<b>Certified Microbial Remediator (CMR)</b>	IAQA Mold Remediation Supervisor	\$100/ \$300	2 yrs field experience in microbial remediation
<b>Certified Residential Microbial Remediator (CRMR) (NON-ACCREDITED)</b>	IAQA Mold Remediation Technician or Supervisor	\$100/ \$200	Current employment in microbial remediation
Most ACAC Certifications require a H.S. Diploma. College credits/degree may be applied to reduce experience required.			



Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)

**\*\*IICRC (Pending Third Party) Accredited Certifications ([www.iicrc.org](http://www.iicrc.org))**

IICRC Certification	IAQTI Course for certification prep	Exam Fee & Certification Fee (for 5 yrs)	Required Experience
<b>Contracting Microbial</b>			
<b>Mold Removal Specialist (MRS)</b>	IAQA Mold Remediation Supervisor	TBA	Experience in the mold industry for more than one year

**Benefits of IAQA/IAQ Training Institute training programs!**

The certifications we prepare people for are through the American Council of Accredited Certification (ACAC) and one specific certification from the Institute for Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). ACAC certifications are third party approved and meet ASTM standards for "true" certification programs. As a result state licensing programs have accepted ACAC certifications for grandfathering purposes. In addition ACAC certification exams are now used as the Florida DBPR mold licensing exam. Most IICRC certifications are not third party approved. The one certification IICRC is working on getting third party approved is the Mold Remediation Specialist (MRS). Read more about that certification on the next page. The other IICRC certifications are good programs and may be the best available in many categories, but they are not third party accredited.

IAQA/IAQ Training Institute courses are approved by the Florida DBPR to meet the training requirement in their state regulation while also helping prepare attendees for the Florida state mold licensing exam which is administered by the ACAC. IAQA/IAQ Training Institute courses are approved as proof of education for Louisiana mold licensing. IAQTI courses were approved by the state of Virginia, during the time VA had a licensing program. The following are additional benefits of IAQA/IAQTI training programs:

- Quality education/training from degreed educators with over 25 years experience in IEQ and mold consulting and contracting
- Third party (IAQA) reviewed and approved educational programs accredited to meet the advertised course objectives
- Over 15 years as the leading provider of IAQA approved IEQ and microbial training courses . We will be there when you need us. Industry veterans, associations and regulators recognize us
- Most insurance companies recognize and accept IAQA/IAQTI certificates of attendance as proof of third-party classroom training with hands-on components
- Continuing education credits for ACAC, IICRC, and ABIH

**\*What is Third Party Approval?**

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard E 1929, Assessment of Certification Programs for Environmental Professions: lays out the criteria for how certification programs become third party accredited. Three organizations in the US most commonly approve certification programs for example the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) has established a national reputation for accrediting certification programs in engineering and science-related fields. CESB-accredited programs that



you may recognize include the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM). ACAC offers the only CESB-accredited programs dedicated to the field of indoor air quality. The other US third party approval groups are American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE), formerly known as NOCA. The best known worldwide third party accrediting organization is the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

### **Why is Third Party Accredited Certification Important? High Standards**

According to CESB, certification is designed to recognize knowledge and verified field experience. Accredited certification programs must therefore require both. In order to qualify for CESB accreditation, a certification program must also meet high standards of program operation:

- It must be administratively independent of other organizations in matters pertaining to certification;
- Its certifying body must consist of a majority of certified individuals;
- It must provide the public and consumers with an opportunity for input into its policies and decisions;
- It must follow strict rules for public disclosure of certification-related activities;
- It must follow strict rules for test development, evaluation and administration;
- It must enforce stringent eligibility requirements for all candidates, including eight years of education and/or field experience for engineering-related designations.

### **\*\*The IICRC Mold Remediation Specialist (MRS)**

The IICRC is working toward third party approval of their Mold Remediation Specialist (MRS) certification through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). When the Florida law first came out none of the IICRC "certifications" were accepted because they were not third party approved. Since then IICRC has gotten the MRS certification approved for licensing in Florida.

Maryland's Home Improvement Commission (HIC) has not to this point (Jan 2016) begun enforcement of their mold licensing regulation. The law requires ACAC or equivalent certifications. There are no equivalents at this point.

The IICRC has another "certification" program for mold remediation technicians and supervisors. The existing Applied Microbial Remediation Technician (AMRT) and (AMRS) Supervisor programs are good educational programs with an exam at the end of the 4-day AMRT. It also requires attendees have taken and passed the IICRC Water Restoration Technician (WRT) training course/certification and the OSHA 10 hour course. This program is not third party approved and requires a specific IICRC training course to acquire the certification. It is however a certification that is commonly recognized by insurance companies as are all ACAC certifications.