



Your Partner in PUBLIC SAFETY

Dedicated to providing quality certification programs for the safe installation, operation and maintenance of public safety systems; delivering value for members by providing the latest information and education in the industry.

Certification Renewal

Why is IMSA Certification Renewal Important?

It is often a misconception that working in the field every day is proof enough that an individual is current in their field of expertise. However, this is not always the case. To renew most licenses, professionals must complete a certain number of hours of continuing education to keep current and meet requirements for renewal. Whether you are a doctor saving lives, a teacher working with our children, or in the public safety field keeping pedestrians and motorists safe, certification renewal is key to continued success on the job.

Not only is renewing certifications and staying current in the field important for the public, but also for the certified individual. Safety starts with you — the individual setting up the work zone, working in the bucket truck, configuring a cabinet, installing fire alarms, striping roads or posting signage. Being current in your field will help ensure the well-being of motorists, pedestrians and you.

In today's litigious society and given the profession you have chosen (public safety), the Certification Renewal Program is a benefit to you and your employer. Not only obtaining certification, but also

keeping it current, can be an asset if called into court to testify. It shows you have maintained your certification and are current in the industry while significantly boosting your credibility.

There are several ways to renew an IMSA certification which have been outlined in detail on the following pages.

If you have taken training or are considering a training course and not sure if it applies to the specialty in which you are renewing, please contact your Section Certification Chairperson (contact details can be found at IMSAafety.org under the 'Contacts' menu).

Renewal is the responsibility of the certificate holder. To find your certification expiration date, please refer to your initial certification or the certificate or card you received when you last renewed. Expiration is three years from the date you received or renewed it.

To help you remember, a renewal packet will be mailed to you three months prior to your expiration date. If you do not receive a renewal packet it could be because IMSA does not have your current address.

Please be sure to update any changes in employment or contact information with IMSA so that we may contact you about your certification.



If you have any questions about your IMSA certification, please call 1-800-723-4672 or email cert@imsasafety.org.

IMSA Certification reflects an individual's accomplishment and professional advancement while demonstrating achievement to the general public, coworkers, employers and others.

What are the Benefits of IMSA Membership?

An IMSA Membership application can be found on our website or contact us for more information: membership@imsasafety.org or 1-800-723-4672. Join today to take advantage of the following:

- Internationally recognized Training, Education and Certification
- International and Section membership with committee membership opportunities
- Career advancement and networking
- Representation in Washington, D.C. and with other industry associations
- Discounts on manuals, certification review programs, study guides, renewal fees
- Enrollment in the Technical Advancement Recognition Program (TARP)
- Access to exclusive documentation and resources on the IMSA website
- Subscription to the bi-monthly IMSA Journal
- Members-only discounts and opportunities at the Annual Conference and School
- Scholarship program

What Are My Options For Renewal?

There are three methods for renewal of IMSA certifications: Continuing Educational Units (CEUs), attending the current IMSA certification course, or obtaining the next higher certification level. The renewal requirements must be completed prior to the expiration date of the current certification.

Educational Units

- College/Technical/Vocational course work
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Technical Advancement Recognition Program (TARP) points
- Renewal hours by personal log

When renewing with educational units it is important to remember the following items:

- Course(s) or training pertains to the certification being renewed.
- Educational units completed within the three (3) years prior to expiration date.
- A combination of the educational units can be used for renewal.
- Most certifications require 16 hours (1.6 CEUs or 64 TARP) to renew
- Certificates of completion are recommended for proof of training. A personal log signed by a supervisor, moderator or speaker may be submitted to the International office at the time of renewal. Personal logs will be randomly audited.

Attending the Current IMSA Certification Course

IMSA is aware some individuals are not able to attend technical training sessions as often as others, so we recommend alternatively attending the current 16-hour certification course (you will not be required to take the exam). However, it is important to follow these steps when choosing this as your renewal option:

- You may only use this option within one year prior to the expiration date on your current certification.
- Contact your local IMSA Section Certification Chair to register for the course nearest you.
- Download a personal log at www.IMSAsafety.org. It is your responsibility to bring the log with you to the course and have it signed by the moderator.
- Be sure to sign the class roster as it will be audited.
- Once you have completed the course, your personal log must be returned to the International office with your renewal fee and applicable Certification Renewal Packet paperwork.

Higher Certification Level

Achieving the next higher certification level in each specialty will result in a new three-year certification; therefore, renewal of your existing certification will not be necessary.

- For example: An individual with a current Traffic Signal Technician Level I certification who passes a Traffic Signal Field Technician Level II certification course will receive a new certification level, which will be due for renewal three-years from the date printed on the certificate and certification card.
- If an individual does not pass the next higher certification level, renewal will still need to be completed on the last level achieved. Individuals attending the class will have achieved the required amount of renewal hours.
- If an individual holds a Traffic Signal Technician Level I and Sign & Pavement Markings Technician Level I and passes the Traffic Signal Field Technician Level II certification course, this will not renew the Sign & Pavement Markings Technician I certification.

IMSA Certification fields:

Fiber Optics	Fire Alarm Monitoring
Interior Fire Alarm	Public Reporting Systems
Public Safety Telecommunicator	Roadway Lighting
Sign and Pavement Marking	Traffic Signal Inspection
Work Zone Temporary Traffic Control	Traffic Signals



What Courses Are Acceptable For Renewal?

The following is a sample of acceptable training that can be submitted for renewals on a variety of specialties:

- Electrical License CEUs
- 2070 Controller Training
- NEMA TS2
- Fire Officer I & 2 (NFPA 1021 2003 Edition Curriculum)
- Flagger Training
- Basic Electronics for Traffic Signals
- Roundabout Design Workshop
- Retroreflective Technology
- Confined Space Awareness
- Bucket Truck Safety
- Fall Protection
- Electrical Code Change Course
- Roadway Illumination & Electrical Installations.
- Earthing, Surging & Lighting Protection
- Sign Fabrication Workshop
- Level II - In Fire Protection Engineering Technology Fire Alarm Systems

If you have any questions about acceptable courses for renewal, contact cert@imsasafety.org.

What is the IMSA Technical Advancement Recognition Program?

The Technical Advancement Recognition Program (TARP) was developed as a member benefit to track members' efforts in obtaining information and education by attending technical sessions held in their Section or at International Conferences.

TARP is a points-based system for members who attend a recognized (approved by the Section) technical session. Points, based on the number of hours, are assigned and the activity is logged in the IMSA database. TARP points are given for Section-organized sessions, International conferences, sponsored presentations or technical presentations.

Two TARP points are awarded for every 30 minutes attended.

The local Section Certification Chair or Section Secretary collects sign-in sheets from technical sessions and submits them to the International office to be logged in the IMSA database.

Also, members who attend industry-related technical sessions can submit an outline of the materials presented (including presenters name and contact



number) and the duration of the session to their local Certification Chairman. If after review it is deemed suitable, the Section Certification Chairman will request points be assigned to that person.

Traffic Signal, Sign & Pavement Marking, Roadway Lighting, Fiber Optics, Fire Alarm, and Public Safety Telecommunicator require a total of 64 TARP points (16 hours of technical sessions or a certification class) to renew.

Work Zone Temporary Traffic Control Technician and Michigan Temporary Traffic Control Specialist require a total of 16 TARP points (4 hours of technical sessions) to renew.



IMSA's internationally recognized Certification programs identify individuals who have demonstrated required knowledge, skills and experience to perform specific technical tasks.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I hold Traffic Signal Field Technician Level II and Traffic Signal Bench Technician Level II Certifications, do both have to be renewed?

A: Yes, both certifications need to be renewed. However, the same 16 hours of training can be used to renew both certifications. Furthermore, if you hold a Traffic Signal Field Technician Level II, Traffic Signal Bench Technician Level II and a Traffic Signal Inspector Level I all three can be renewed with the same 16 hours of training.

Q: What happens if I take the next higher certification level and fail? How do I renew?

A: If you currently hold a Traffic Signal Technician Level I and take Traffic Signal Field Technician Level II to fill your renewal requirements but fail, by participating in the Traffic Signal Field Technician Level II course, your required 16 hours of training would be met. Additional paperwork and payment would then need to be sent to renew the Traffic Signal Technician Level I.

Q: My certification expires in June but I can't get into a training class until September. What should I do?

A: If the certification is not renewed by the expiration date, it will lapse. The lapsed certification holder will have one year to reinstate their certification by documenting 16 hours of training. If the certification has lapsed more than one year the individual should contact cert@imsasafety.org for additional details.

Have you attended product demos at your shop? Training on a new installation? Safety meetings? These hours can all be used toward renewal.

www.IMSAsafety.org



Your Partner in PUBLIC SAFETY

597 Haverty Court
Suite 100
Rockledge, FL 32955

cert@IMSAsafety.org
1-800-723-4672
F: 321-806-1400