

Certification Change History Log

The following table summarizes the major changes to the INCOSE certification program since its inception. Only major changes that resulted in certification requirements are listed. This table is provided as a convenience for applicants and people/organizations providing certification training. The latest versions of the certification forms should be consulted for the current certification requirements.

Date	Certification Requirement Addition or Change	Rationale
Mar-04	Introduced the Certified Systems Engineering Professional (CSEP) designation.	To provide for INCOSE certification at the foundational level.
Aug-07	Changed the basis for the certification exam to also include the INCOSE SE Handbook v3.1. (Note that either v2A or v3.1 could be used for exam preparation through Jun-08.)	To align the certification program with the ISO/IEC 15288:2002 international systems engineering standard, and help meet the market needs.
Jul-08	Introduced the Associate Systems Engineering Professional (ASEP) designation.	To provide for INCOSE certification at the entry level.
Jul-08	Introduced the Acquisition (Acq) Extension designation.	To provide for an INCOSE certification extension for SEs in a US DoD acquisition environment.
Jul-08	Modified the CSEP application so the systems engineering experience summary table was not required for applicants with more than seven years of SE experience.	To streamline and simplify the application process for more qualified applicants. (Note: this was changed back to be required for all applicants in Mar-10.)
Jul-08	Changed the basis for the CSEP/ASEP certification exam exclusively to the INCOSE SE Handbook v3.1.	To align the certification program with the ISO/IEC 15288:2002 international systems engineering standard.
Jun-09	Eliminated the requirement for a technical Bachelor's degree for the ASEP. Allow up to 15 years to transition to CSEP.	To align the ASEP and CSEP, especially to provide consistency between the "no degree" requirements.
Jun-09	Required INCOSE membership for the ASEP. Eliminated inclusion of the complimentary INCOSE membership with ASEP.	Junior/emerging SEs will additionally benefit from INCOSE membership. Complimentary membership was unfair to applicants who were already INCOSE members.
Aug-09	Revised and clarified the continuing education and Professional Development Unit (PDU) definitions required for certification renewal.	To provide better balance in credit given and to provide better definition of what is acceptable. Also, to recognize the on-the-job development that takes place in a project leadership role. (Note: the old PDU definitions can be used by people originally certified or last renewed prior to Aug-09.)
Jan-10	Allowed exam takers to bring in a translation-only dictionary (not definitions, just translations) with them into the Prometric test facility.	To support certification applicants who speak English as a second language (ESL). (Note: the translation dictionary provision was eliminated in May-11.)
Mar-10	Introduced the Expert Systems Engineering Professional (ESEP) designation.	To provide for INCOSE certification at the senior level.
Mar-10	Removed the combined CSEP & Acq application and examination.	To support multi-level extensions and anticipating additional extensions. Also eliminates administrative and financial burdens on INCOSE. (Note: one now has to be an ASEP/CSEP/ESEP first, and then can apply for the Acq extension.)

Date	Certification Requirement Addition or Change	Rationale
Mar-10	Recognized the Acq extension to be applicable at every level of certification (e.g., AESP-Acq, CSEP-Acq, and ESEP-Acq).	To fully implement the concept of multi-level certification with extensions. (Note: the core SE Handbook exam needs to be successfully passed (even by ESEPs) before one takes the Acq extension since the Acq extension only covers the additional SE concepts not already covered in the SE Handbook.)
Mar-10	Clarified the CSEP systems engineering experience width and breadth requirement to be at least one year in at least three of the identified systems engineering functional areas.	To clearly define the requirement.
Mar-10	Modified the CSEP application so the systems engineering experience summary table is required to be completed by every applicant, (not just those with less than seven years experience).	To assist the Certification Application Reviewers (CARs) in performing quality reviews. (Note: old applications without the experience table filled-in for applicants with more than 7 years SE experience will only be accepted through 30 June 2010.)
May-10	Changed the basis for the certification exam to also include the INCOSE SE Handbook v3.2. (Note that either v3.1 or v3.2 can be used for exam preparation through January 2011.)	To align the certification program with the ISO/IEC 15288:2008 international systems engineering standard.
Nov-10	Announced that the basis for the Acquisition (Acq) extension exam will be changed to the latest version of the DAG Chapter 4 as posted on the INCOSE website starting 1 May 2011. (Note that the previous 2004 version of the DAG Chapter 4 should be used prior to that time, and candidates should ensure they have successfully completed the examination process prior to 8 April 2011.)	To align the certification program with the latest version of the DAG Chapter 4.
Feb-11	Eliminated INCOSE SE Handbook v3.1 as a basis for the certification exam.	Moved the program exclusively to v3.2 of the INCOSE SE Handbook.
Feb-11	Changed the basis for the certification exam to also include the INCOSE SE Handbook v3.2.1. (Note that either v3.2 or v3.2.1 can be used for exam preparation. The minor differences between Version 3.2 and Version 3.2.1 have no impact on any exam items.)	To align the certification program with the adoption of the INCOSE SE Handbook as an ISO/IEC Technical Report.
May-11	Allow exam taker with a disability or other acceptable conditions to request special accommodations.	To support certification applicants who need special accommodations.
May-11	Allow English as a Second Language (ESL) exam taker to request additional time. Eliminated allowing exam takers to bring in a translation-only dictionary with them into the Prometric test facility.	To support certification applicants who speak English as a second language (ESL). (Note: the translation dictionary was eliminated to prevent abuse.)
Dec-11	Changed the basis for the certification exam to also include the INCOSE SE Handbook v3.2.2. (Note that either v3.2, v 3.2.1, or v3.2.2 can be used for exam preparation. The minor differences between Version 3.2 and Version 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 have no impact on any exam items.)	To align the certification program with the latest version of the INCOSE SE Handbook.
Dec-11	Updated the certification website and all the certification forms.	To reflect the new SEP logos and to incorporate suggested improvements.

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Dec-11	Clarified that for ESEP, the references in aggregate can substantiate any 10 years of SE experience, not just the most recent 10 years.	To allow recognition of any 10 years by the ESEP references.
Dec-11	Changed the PDU definitions for renewal to allow various volunteer activities and earning non-SEP professional certifications.	To better clarify the specific activities that count for PDU credit.
Dec-11	Clarified that you need to be “an individual, senior, or student member of INCOSE” for ASEP and ESEP.	Clarified what is meant by “INCOSE member” for certification.