



Beta Testing

The Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) is seeking certification program members to participate in Beta Testing that will establish the validity and determine the passing scores of its newly developed standardized Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Collection, and Distribution certification exams. Participation in the Beta Testing will provide your program with an opportunity to preview the standardized exams that will be released in 2012 and to assist ABC in developing legally defensible exams for certification program members' use.

Eligibility

Any ABC Certification Program Member who will be administering Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Collection, or Distribution Operator certification exams between October 15, 2011 and February 29, 2012 may participate in the Beta Testing.

Commitment and Resources

Candidates

Beta Tests will be administered through February 29, 2012. During this time, participating programs may administer the Beta Tests to some or all of their candidates testing for Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Collection, or Distribution Operator certification.

Beta Test participation may not be right for all candidates. Scores for the Beta Tests will not be available until the passing score is set in spring 2012.

Examination Administration

Like the current ABC certification exams, Beta Tests are 100 multiple-choice questions in length and three hours should be allowed for examinees to complete the exam. Your program may administer Beta Tests in the paper-based or web-based formats; computer-based Beta Tests will be administered by Applied Measurement Professionals.

Paper and Web Administration

Your program is responsible for arranging examination sites, dates, and locations as well as selecting and training proctors to administer the exams according to the ABC Exam Administrator Instructions. In addition to the Beta Test, candidates will complete a demographic survey; please schedule an additional 30 minutes for this activity.

For paper-passed exams, ABC will provide a test book, answer sheet, examination instructions, question comment form, and demographic survey for each candidate as well as the Test Administrator Instructions and materials. For web-based exams, ABC will provide the URL of the online exam and

demographic survey, login information for each candidate, and Test Administration Instructions and materials.

Computer Administration

Computer-based Beta testing allows you to offer the Beta Tests to your operators and candidates with no exam administration burdens on your program. To register for a free computer-based Beta test, candidates will complete a brief demographic survey over the Internet. Within a few business days of completing the survey, candidates will receive information to schedule their Beta test at the assessment center and time most convenient to them. AMP operates approximately 170 assessment centers across the United States. For a list of AMP's assessment center locations, visit: <http://www.goamp.com/assessmentCenterNetworkLocations.aspx>. AMP will administer the computer-based Beta tests from December 12, 2011 through February 29, 2012.

Need-to-Know Criteria

Candidates completing a Beta Test should be provided with the updated *Need-to-Know Criteria* in order to prepare for their exam. If your program elects to participate in the Beta Testing, ABC will provide the *Criteria* to your program in PDF format and via web link for distribution to your candidates.

Benefits

Free Certification Exams

Beta Tests are free! ABC will provide the testing materials and basic package score results to your program at no charge.

Discounted Annual Conference Registration

Your program will receive a 10% discount, up to 50% off the regular cost of Annual Conference registration, for every 25 candidates who participate in the Beta Test. This discount cannot be combined with any other discount offered by ABC. Please see the table below for specific discounts.

Candidates	25-49	50-74	75-99	100-124	125+
Discount	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%

Industry Leadership

In addition to being among the first to experience the new ABC standardized certification exams, your program's participation in ABC exam development activities helps ensure that ABC certification exams administered across North America appropriately distinguish between candidates who are minimally competent and those who are not, further protecting the public health and environment.

How to Participate

Programs interested in participating should contact Lorrie Banks, Office & Volunteer Coordinator, at certification@abccert.org or (515) 232-3623 to plan for Beta Test implementation.