7508 Wisconsin Avenue, 4th Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-652-7925; www.wacel.org

WACEL Certification Program
July 2025

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the WACEL Technician Certification program is to assess an individual's knowledge of information deemed critical to the proper performance of the tasks associated with the work for which certification is sought. Certification implies solely that an individual has met WACEL criteria and prerequisites and has passed a written examination and in some cases, a performance exam. A certification is valid for five years. WACEL criteria, prerequisites and examinations are compatible with guidelines established by AMRL, CCRL, ACI, ASTM, NICET, ICC and local governments.

2.0 Scope

The program is applicable to individuals performing work covered by the certification categories delineated below in Section 4.

3.0 Operational Requirements

Written testing is available to be conducted at member offices and laboratories, at designated training facilities or through an online testing platform. Testing at member offices needs to be scheduled at least three weeks in advance of testing to determine availability of proctors. On-site testing requires at least 5 technicians to be tested. Firms requesting in-office testing must agree to pay an administrative fee and travel expenses. The current administrative fee is $375 per proctor for up to 4 hours, $750 for per proctor for up to 8 hours and $1,000 per proctor for more than 8 hours plus travel expenses.

3.1 Impropriety

Field and laboratory professionals, as part of the application and testing process, must acknowledge in writing that they are aware of and agree with WACEL policy with respect to impropriety and compromising the integrity of the testing process. Anyone who is caught cheating or compromising the integrity of the certification program, e.g. photographing tests, stealing tests, copying test questions, etc. are barred from participating in the WACEL testing program for a period of five years and will have all existing WACEL certifications automatically rescinded. If anyone is accused of cheating or compromising the integrity of the testing process, he or she has the opportunity to appeal any disciplinary action to the WACEL Board of Directors.

4.0 Technical Requirements

Individuals considered for WACEL certification programs shall have sufficient education, training and experience to assure understanding of the principles and procedures of the tasks comprising the position for which certification is sought.

4.1 Concrete Inspection and Testing

Concrete inspection and testing has the following levels of technical qualification.

4.1.1 Level I Concrete Field

Shall understand the basic concepts of concrete mixes, cements, aggregates and water content and how variations affect the final product, and shall have sufficient education, training and experience to properly perform normal daily control tests for concrete, such as sampling requirements, preparation of compressive-strength cylinders, and determination of slump, temperature, air content (both pressure method and volumetric method) and unit weight. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Concrete I Study Guide

4.1.2 Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector (Level II Concrete)

Shall be familiar with applicable codes and specifications, as well as various ASTM and ACI standards dealing with concrete and ASTM standards dealing with aggregates, and shall be able to interpret and evaluate test results and organize and report field and laboratory tests. In addition, a Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector shall have sufficient education, training and experience to evaluate proper consolidation techniques to include possible results of improper consolidation, know test methods and acceptance criteria for evaluation and acceptance of deficient compressive strength cylinders, non-destructive testing cores and structural modification. Reinforced Concrete Special Inspectors must also know how to properly inspect concrete handling and placing, prepare trial batches, visually inspect reinforcing steel and basic vertical and horizontal formwork, test and monitor grout and mortar, inspect simple reinforced masonry, visually inspect reinforcing steel and basic vertical and horizontal formwork and can interpret plans, specifications, shop drawings and details for material, dimension, size and location and know the special inspection requirements of reinforced concrete. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector - Study Guide

4.1.3 Structural Concrete Special Inspector (Level III Concrete)

A Structural Concrete Special Inspector shall have sufficient education, training and experience to understand plans and specifications; shall be familiar with ACI standards and applicable codes, and shall be proficient in field observation procedures to verify compliance with these directives. The Structural Concrete Special Inspector shall be capable of proper observations, inspections and testing of forms, reinforcing steel, post-tensioning, tilt-up construction and other facets of placing, sampling and curing concrete. In addition, the Structural Concrete Special Inspector must understand advance topics for

concrete as a construction material such as the effect of low water-cement ratios, air entrapment, air content and hydration, etc., and understand the special inspection requirements of structural concrete. Additionally, the exam covers basic concepts of batching, consolidation, curing, hot and cold weather concreting and destruction and nondestructive testing methods. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Structural Concrete Special Inspector - Study Guide

4.2 Structural Masonry Special Inspector

A Structural Masonry Special Inspector shall have sufficient education, training and experience to understand plans and specifications and details for materials, dimensions, sizes and locations; be familiar with the TMS 402 and TMS 602. A Structural Masonry Special Inspector shall know how to interpret plans, specifications, approved shop drawings and details and requirements for each project. The Structural Masonry Special Inspector shall be familiar with masonry materials, know the requirements for placing masonry units, be familiar with, confirm and know how to place masonry reinforcing and metal accessories, test and monitor grout and mortar, prepare mortar compressive strength tests and grout specimens, know the technical requirements and inspection criteria for proper monitoring of post-installed concrete anchors and know the special inspection requirements of masonry. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Structural Masonry Special Inspector Study Guide

4.3 Soil Field Special Inspector

A Soil Field Special Inspector shall have sufficient education, training and experience to identify soils; perform basic laboratory soil tests; obtain soil samples in the field and perform field density tests for compaction control.

Responsibilities are limited to performance of required tasks and reporting results, without decision-making. More specifically, a Soil Field Special Inspector shall be familiar with soil types and classification systems (Unified Soil Classification System), have a basic understanding of the concepts of specific gravity, void ratio, saturation, etc., be able to interpret moisture content and liquid and plastic limits; sieve analysis; laboratory compaction (moisture-density relationships), and be able to properly read and interpret site plans and details found on the site plans.

Soil Field Special Inspector shall also demonstrate proficiency to perform tests to determine moisture content of soil by direct heating, demonstrate proficiency to perform a one-point proctor, demonstrate proficiency to perform density and unit weight of soil in place by sand cone and/or drive cylinder, and demonstrate proficiency to use a Nuclear Density Gauge.

Certification requirements include successful completion of written and performance exams and proof of Nuclear Gauge Safety Training Certification from a WACEL- recognized certification program.

A registered Professional Engineer who is approved by a member of the Certification Committee can monitor the performance exams to field and laboratory staff. However, the grading of the practical must be by a WACEL proctor in person or recorded video submitted to WACEL. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Soils Field Special Inspector Study Guide

4.4 Shallow Foundation and Retaining Wall Special Inspector

A Shallow Foundation and Retaining Wall Special Inspector shall have sufficient education training and experience with general foundation observation and testing requirements and demonstrate an ability to interpret plans and specifications. The exam is divided into two sections: General Knowledge and Specification and Plan Interpretation. The General Knowledge section includes questions addressing shallow foundations, field reporting requirements, density testing, problem soils, and ACI and ASTM requirements.

The second part of the test evaluates a special inspector's ability to read and interpret plans and specifications. Every examinee is provided with a sample geotechnical report and a set of project drawings. Examinees are asked to identify boring depths, different soil types, slope steepness, fill types, plasticity of soils, bearing capacity, leveling pad and lift thicknesses, design strengths for different foundations, compaction requirements, and optimum moisture contents, among other design, testing and observation criteria. Plan Reading will consist of a basic structural drawings and retaining wall drawings. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Shallow Foundations and Retaining Wall Special Inspector Study Guide

4.5 Structural Steel Special Inspector

A Structural Steel Special Inspector shall have sufficient training, education and experience to understand contract drawings, shop drawings and project specifications. Structural Steel Special Inspectors should also be familiar with codes and standards promulgated by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) American Welding Society (AWS), Steel Structures Painting Council and appropriate specifications related to steel decking and joints. In addition, the Structural Steel Inspector shall be capable of reviewing approved project documents and field erection documents, determining structural shapes, properties and tolerances, confirming anchor rods and column bases, inspecting bolted and welded connections, inspecting column plumb, decking, joists, member sizes and member placement, painting and surface preparation, having knowledge of nondestructive testing of steel and weldments, demonstrating proficiency with field procedures to help verify compliance with structural steel specifications, and recognizing and reporting deficiencies and deviations from specifications. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

There are two levels of certification. Level I is granted when examinees successfully pass the WACEL certification exam. Level II is granted when examinees successfully pass the WACEL certification exam and are certified as an American Welding Society (AWS) Certified Welding Inspector Level I or equivalent.

Structural Steel Special Inspector Study Guide

4.6 Sprayed-On Fireproofing Special Inspector

Sprayed-on Fireproofing Special inspectors shall be familiar with the purpose of sprayed-on fire resistive materials, can describe different types of materials, understands and can discuss safety issues associated with testing and inspecting sprayed-on fire resistive materials and intumescent fire-resistive materials. Can review and extract required testing and information from approved submittals. In addition, a Special Inspector must have a knowledge of how to properly conduct quality assurance testing using appropriate ASTMs, the IBC, and/or the AWCI Technical Manuals 12-A and 12-B, have an understanding of substrate and environmental conditions that could influence the suitability of applied, fire-resistive materials for both SFRM and TFIFRM, knows how to properly measure thickness, density and adhesion/cohesion of sprayed-on fire-resistive materials, and knows how to properly take, compute, and record TFIFRM thickness determinations. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Sprayed Fireproofing Inspector Study Guide

4.7 Fire Stopping Special Inspector

A Fire Stopping Special Inspector shall be familiar with and must be able to define and describe the three general categories of fire stopping systems, understands the requirements for On-site Inspection of Installed Fire Stops, understand the requirements On-Site Inspection of Installed Fire Resistive Joint Systems and Perimeter Fire Barriers, familiar with Inspector Pocket Guide," International Firestop Council, can interpret the UL number system, can define different ratings assigned to fire stopping systems, can inspect different rated systems, can inspect and test through-penetration systems, joint systems, perimeter systems, and can perform the requirements of special inspections of fire stopping. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Firestopping Special Inspector Study Guide

4.8 Wood Framing Special Inspector

A Wood Framing Special Inspector should have signification construction observation, testing and special inspection field experience and have obtained a Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector (ICC, ACI or WACEL) or Basic Structural Steel (ICC S1 or WACEL).

The Wood Framing Special Inspector exam covers the following knowledge areas: Materials (dimensional lumber, engineered wood, construction nails, wood construction connectors, metal plate connected wood trusses), load paths (vertical and lateral load paths), concrete connections, framing systems, floor framing (can identify the structural components typically associated with floor framing and can monitor proper installation), Wall framing (can identify the structural components typically associated with wall

framing and can monitor proper installation), Roof framing (understands the proper handling, installing, bracing and connection of metal plate connected wood roof trusses as described in "Building Component Safety Information" and approved construction drawings), and be able to properly read and interpret Construction documents (structural drawings, specifications, and field erection drawings). For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Wood Framing Special Inspector Study Guide

5.0 Laboratory Certifications

5.1 Soil Laboratory Technician

Certification requirements include successful completion of written and performance exams. A registered Professional Engineer who is approved by the Certification Committee administers the performance examination to the technician. Performance examination grading sheets are available in the Resource section of the WACEL website. Instructions for administering performance exams are included with the grading sheets. The Soil Laboratory Technician program requires technicians to visually identify and classify soil in accordance with USCS, have knowledge of and can perform the following tests: Moisture Content, Grain Size Determination – Hydrometer, Atterberg Limits, both Standard and Modified Proctor Tests, California Bearing Ratio, and Soil Specific Gravity Testing. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Soils Laboratory Study Guide

5.2 Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing Technician

Certification requirements include successful completion of written and performance exams. A registered Professional Engineer who is approved by the Certification Committee can administer the performance examination to the technician. Performance examination grading sheets are available in the Resource section of the WACEL website. Instructions for administering performance exams are included with the grading sheets.

The Concrete Masonry Strength Testing Technician program covers capping cylindrical concrete specimens, using unbonded caps in the testing of cylindrical concrete specimens, determining the compressive strength of cylindrical concrete specimens, testing a cast, flexural strength test specimen using third-point loading, preparing and testing drilled cores for compressive strength, determining the compressive strength of masonry mortar cubes, and determining the compressive strength of masonry grout prisms. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Concrete Masonry Strength Testing Technician Study Guide

5.3 Concrete Aggregate Laboratory Technician

A certified aggregate laboratory technician shall have sufficient training, education, and experience to conduct the testing of aggregate samples in the laboratory. ASTM C1077 gives guidance as to standard test methods covered in this certification. These include: ASTM C40, C117, C127, C128, and C136. Technicians should be familiar with these standard test methods, be able to properly perform the tests,

and perform required calculations. For more detailed information, click on the link below for the study guide.

Certification requirements include successful completion of written and performance exams. The performance examination is administered to the technician by a registered Professional Engineer who is approved by Certification Committee. Performance examination grading sheets are available in the Resource section of the WACEL website. Instructions for administering performance exams are included with the grading sheets.

Concrete Aggregate Laboratory Technician Study Guide

6.0 Other Requirements and Prerequisites

All applicants shall complete a WACEL application for certification for the level of certification being sought. Applications must be completed and submitted prior to the test. Failure to complete an application or an application that is incomplete shall be subject to stipulations set forth in Sections 6.4 and 6.5. Other requirements and prerequisites are as follows:

6.1 Level I Certifications

The following requirements apply to examinees seeking certification as a Level I Special Inspectors and Laboratory Technicians (Concrete Field, Soil Field Special Inspector, Fireproofing, Fire Stopping, Soil Laboratory Technician, Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing Technician, Soil Laboratory and Aggregate Laboratory Technician)

6.1.1 Education

Shall have sufficient formal education to read, understand and execute written instructions, codes and procedures, and shall be capable of keeping accurate field records.

6.1.2 Recommendation

Shall be recommended for certification by the professional engineer in charge of services provided by the firm. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.)

6.1.3 Other Qualifications

Shall have other or equivalent qualifications established or subject to approval by the Certification Committee.

6.1.5 Written Examination

Shall pass the written examination for Level I certification.

6.2 Level II Certifications

The following requirements apply to examinees seeking certification as Level II Special Inspectors (Foundation Special Inspector, Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector and Structural Masonry Special Inspector)

6.2.1 Prior Certification

Shall be certified as a WACEL Soil Field Special Inspector and/or a WACEL or ACI Field Level I Concrete Technician for foundations and a WACEL or ACI Field Level I for Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector and Structural Masonry Special Inspector. WACEL does not accept internal certifications as meeting prior certification requirements or as equivalent of WACEL, ACI or other third-party certifications recognized by WACEL.

6.2.2 Prior Experience

Shall have one year of satisfactory performance as a Level I Technician or the equivalent or have the equivalent training and experience that in the opinion of the professional engineer in charge of the firm, the individual can perform the duties of a Level II Special Inspector.

6.2.3 Recommendation

Shall be recommended for certification by the professional engineer in charge of services provided by the firm. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.)

6.2.4 Other Qualifications

Shall have other or equivalent qualifications established or subject to approval by the Certification Committee.

6.2.5 Written Examination

Shall pass the written examination for Level II certification.

6.2.6 Expiration Date

The expiration date for successful completion of Concrete II (Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector and Structural Masonry Special Inspector) certification requirements will be the same as the examinee’s Concrete I field certification. At such time as an examinee is recertified as a Concrete I field technician, the Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector expiration date will be automatically updated to the date of five years from the successful completion of RCSI certification requirements.

6.3 Foundation Special Inspector

6.3.1 Formal Education

Shall have a formal education at least equivalent to that required for a high school diploma. (Additional formal education is expected.)

6.3.2 Prior Certification

Shall be certified as a Concrete Field Level I and Soil Field Special Inspector. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.) WACEL does not accept internal certifications as meeting prior certification requirements or as equivalent of WACEL, ACI or other third-party certifications recognized by WACEL.

6.3.3 Field Experience

Shall have at least a years' relevant field experience, or have equivalent education and experience described in writing and attested to by an applicant's WACEL approved supervisor. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.)

6.3.4 Recommendation

Shall be recommended for certification by the professional engineer in charge of services provided by the firm. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendations shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.)

6.3.5 Other Qualifications

Shall have other or equivalent qualifications established or subject to approval by the Certification Committee.

6.3.6 Written Examination

Shall pass the written examination for Foundation Special Inspector.

6.3.7 Expiration Date

The expiration date for successful completion of Foundation Special Inspector certification requirements will be the same as the technician’s Concrete I Field or Soil Field Special Inspector certification expiration date (which ever expires first) because Concrete I and Soil Field are prerequisites for Foundation certification. At such time as an examinee is recertified as Concrete I Field and Soil Field Special Inspector, the Foundation expiration date will be automatically updated to the date of the Soil Field Special Inspector or Concrete Field that expires first. When both Soil Field and Concrete Field are updated, the Foundation expiration will be updated to five years from the successful completion of Foundations.

7.0 Structural Concrete Special Inspector

7.1.1 Formal Education

Shall have a formal education at least equivalent to that required for a high school diploma. (Additional formal education is expected.)

7.1.2 Prior Certification

Shall be certified as a Level I Concrete Field and as a Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety). WACEL does not accept internal certifications as meeting prior certification requirements or as equivalent of WACEL, ACI or other third-party certifications recognized by WACEL.

7.1.3 Field Experience

Shall have at least a years' relevant field experience, or have equivalent education and experience described in writing and attested to by the applicant's supervisor, who shall be a registered professional engineer. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.)

7.1.4 Recommendation

Shall be recommended for certification by the professional engineer in charge of services provided by the firm. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.)

7.1.5 Other Qualifications

Shall have other or equivalent qualifications established or subject to approval by the Certification Committee.

7.1.6 Written Examination

Shall pass the written examination for Structural Concrete Inspector certification.

7.1.7 Expiration Date

The expiration date for successful completion of Structural Concrete certification requirements will be the same as the technician’s Concrete I Field certification expiration date because Concrete I is a prerequisite for Structural Concrete certification. At such time as a technician is recertified as Concrete I technician, the Structural Concrete expiration date will be automatically updated to the expiration date of the technician’s Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector certification if the expiration is less than five years from when the Structural Concrete Special Inspector certification was obtained, because Reinforced Concrete

Special Inspector also is a prerequisite for Structural Concrete Special Inspector. At such time as the Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector certification is updated, the Structural Concrete Special Inspector certification expiration date will be updated from five years of the date the Structural Concrete certification was obtained.

8.0 Structural Steel Special Inspector

8.1.1 Formal Education

Shall have sufficient formal education to read, understand, and execute written instructions, codes and procedures, and shall be capable of keeping accurate field records. Formal education should be at least equivalent to that required for a high school diploma. (Additional formal education is expected.)

8.1.2 Recommendation

Shall be recommended for certification by the professional engineer in charge of services provided by the firm. (In the event the applicant is unemployed, self-employed or employed by a nonmember, this recommendation shall be furnished and sealed by a professional engineer familiar with the applicant's capabilities. Such recommendation shall also identify the circumstances that establish its propriety.)

8.1.3 Other Qualifications

Shall have other or equivalent qualifications established or subject to approval by the Certification Committee.

8.1.3 Written Examination

Shall pass the written examination for certification.

9. Demonstrated Proficiency

A registered Professional Engineer who is approved by a member of the Certification Committee can administer performance exams to field and laboratory staff. However, the grading of the practical must be by a WACEL proctor in person or recorded video submitted to WACEL. Performance examination grading sheets are available in the Resources Section of the WACEL website. Instructions for administering performance exams are included with the grading sheets.

9.1.1 Concrete Level I Field

The goal of the Concrete Level I Field practical is for examinees to demonstrate proficiency in performing field tests, including molding cylinders, making a slump test, and performing air and yield tests. Successful completion of a field test will demonstrate such proficiency.

9.1.2 Soil Field Special Inspector

The goal of the Soil Field Special Inspector practical exam is to assess an examinee’s knowledge and ability to properly perform and record the results of basic soil field tests. Field staff must be familiar with testing procedures for Water (Moisture) Content of Soil by Direct Heating, One Point Proctor, Density and Unit

Weight of Soil in Place by Sand Cone and/or Drive Cylinder, and Nuclear Density Gauge.

9.1.3 Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing

The goal of the Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing Technician is for examinees to demonstrate proficiency in performing laboratory tests for compressive strength testing for concrete specimens, mortar specimens, and grout specimens, use of unbonded caps, capping cylindrical concrete or grout specimens and flexural strength of concrete.

9.1.4. Aggregate Laboratory Testing

The goal of the Aggregate Laboratory Testing certification is for examinees to demonstrate proficiency in performing laboratory tests for organic impurities, coarse aggregate specific gravity, fine aggregate specific gravity, sieve analysis of fine and coarse aggregates and Minus #200 Wash.

9.1.5 Soil Laboratory Testing

The goal of the Soil Laboratory Testing proficiency exam is for examinees to demonstrate proficiency in performing laboratory tests for dry preparations of soil samples for particle-size analysis and determination of soil constants, particle size analysis, standard and modified proctor, specific gravity of soil solids by water pycnometer, CBR of laboratory compacted soil, Liquid and Plastic limits, and plasticity index of soils and moisture content of soil and rock by mass.

10. Examinations

10.1 Administration

10.1.1 Examinees are required to take exams at their places of employment under controlled conditions that include the following:

1. Supervisors are to ensure that the only materials that those taking certification tests can use while taking a certification exam are a calculator, pencil or pen, blank paper and authorized reference materials applicable to the exam.
2. Supervisors are to instruct examinees that they cannot leave the testing venue except with permission if they need to use the restroom or other similar requirement.
3. Supervisors are required to destroy papers used during the exam for calculations or other purposes at the conclusion of the exam.
4. Supervisors are to ensure that phones or any other devices that could be used to photograph or record exam questions or otherwise compromise the integrity of the process are banned from the exam space.
5. Supervisors are required to photograph examinees and a government issued form of identification (driver's license, etc.) and submit with the exam application to the certification office within 72 hours of the exam's conclusion.

10.1.1. Supervisors or Professional Engineers will have to certify that their administration of the exam did not compromise the integrity of the exam process and met WACEL's online testing requirements. This certification is made after the exam has been completed on a second application form that must be submitted along with the technician's government ID and photo.

10.1.2 Depending on the certification level, WACEL members will provide resource materials for open-book exams. A list of materials for each test are listed in the study guides found on www.wacel.org.

10.2.3 Online testing will only be available between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM, Eastern time. Examinees will not be able to access the "Take Certification Exams" link outside this timeframe or in any other venue that is not their place of employment.

10.2 Study Guides

Study guides are available for all levels of certification outlined above. Study guides are free and can be downloaded from www.wacel.org.

10.3 Passing Grade

To pass an examination, an applicant shall obtain an overall grade of 75 percent with a minimum of 70 percent correct answers on all plan reading sections.

10.4 Fulfilling Requirements and Prerequisites

Examinees shall meet requirements and prerequisites for certification within three calendar months from the date on which examination results are received. If requirements and prerequisites are not fulfilled within that time period, or if the certification office is not informed of such fulfillment within that time period, the examination will be considered void. Applicants must take proficiency and written sections of the Concrete Field Level I, Soil Level I Field Special Inspector, Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing Technician, Aggregate Laboratory Testing Technician and Soil Laboratory Technician exams within 90 days of one another and provide evidence of doing so. Results of the test must be reported to the certification office within 45 days of the technicians being notified of exam results. Such voidance shall not disencumber the applicant from fulfilling certification-related financial obligations to the WACEL certification program.

10.5 Applications

Applicants for certification must complete an application for each certification. Applicants who do not submitted a completed application signed by an approved supervisor will not be certified. Nonmember applications must be signed and sealed by a professional engineer in the jurisdiction where the technician is employed. Applications are available at www.wacel.org.

10.6 Open Book Exams

The WACEL Soil Field Special Inspector, Foundation Special Inspector, Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector, Structural Masonry Special Inspector, Structural Concrete Special Inspector, Structural Steel Special Inspector, Wood Framing Special Inspector and Soil, Concrete and Aggregate Laboratory exams are all open book. Examinees may use references cited in each certification's study guide. Study guides also list addition references are listed for the purpose of a more expanded background; their content is usually well addressed in the essential references.

All of the required references that are identified in study guides can be used during the examination as long as they contain no marks, tabbing, or highlighting. Additional references or materials that are not identified in the study guides may not be used during open-book examinations.

11 Examination Costs WACEL Members

11.1 Written Examination

Soil Field Special Inspector, Concrete Field, Reinforced Concrete Special Inspector, Structural Masonry Special Inspector, Structural Inspector, Foundation Special Inspector, Firestopping Special Inspector, Fireproofing Special Inspector, Structural Steel Inspector, Wood Framing Special Inspector, Soil Lab Technician, Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing Technician and Aggregate Laboratory Technician.

$150 per examination for WACEL Members
$160 per examination for government employees
$425 per examination for nonmembers

11.2 Practical Examinations

WACEL Member Rates	
Concrete Field Level I	$250 per examination; $260 for government employees
Soils Field Special Inspector	$250 per examination; $260 for government employees
Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing Technician	$250 per examination; $260 for government employees
Aggregate Laboratory Testing Technician	$250 per examination; $260 for government employees
Soil Laboratory Technician	$400 per examination; $410 for government employees

Testing on-site 5 tests minimum. Proctor fees are $375 per proctor for up to four hours; $750 per proctor for up to 8 hours and $1,000 per proctor for more than 8 hours.

Nonmember rates	
Concrete Field Level I	$425 per examination
Soils Field Special Inspector	$425 per examination
Concrete/Masonry Strength Testing Technician	$425 per examination
Aggregate Laboratory Testing Technician	$425 per examination
Soil Laboratory Technician	$500 per examination

Nonmember testing on-site 5 tests minimum. Proctor fees are $750 per proctor for up to four hours; $1,500 per proctor for up to 8 hours and $1,750 per proctor for more than 8 hours.

12.0 Release of Information

Information about an applicant's test score will be made known only to the duly authorized representative of the firm employing the applicant, or to the duly authorized representative of some other organization employing the applicant when such other organization has paid all fees associated with the certification examination involved.

13.0 Certificates

13.1 Issuance and Display

Upon successful completion of all requirements, a certificate shall be issued to the certified individual's employer.

13.2 Issuance Restrictions

Member Firm Personnel: Certificates shall not be issued to individuals employed by any firm which is more than 90 days in arrears of payments, unless certification fees are paid separately at nonmember rates.

14.0 Recertification

In order to be recertified, technicians must retake and pass the written exam and appropriate proficiency (field) tests every five years.