

Continuity of Certification

“Continuity papers” are merely documents attesting to the fact that an individual holding a particular certification continues to abide by the requirements of that certification.

If a particular certification has expired, then it is not possible to submit “continuity papers” for that particular certification. It is an individual responsibility to maintain continuity and monitor the expiration date for any certification. Fees associated with maintaining continuity are an individual liability.

The following organizations monitor your various certifications.

ASSE – ASSE Cross Connection/ Backflow Assembly Tester Certification

State of Michigan – Plumbing License and Michigan Backflow Assembly Tester Certification

NITC – Medical Gas Installer and Brazer Certification

Plumbers Local 98 through the UA – Welder Certification

ASSE BACKFLOW TESTER CERTIFICATION

ASSE maintains records and will notify an individual prior to the expiration of their certification and provide instructions on how to go about renewing the certification. ASSE refers to this as “updating a current certification”. Updating requires an individual to attend an “update” class and take both a written and practical test at the conclusion of the class. The training center schedules these classes on an as needed basis. There is a fee involved.

PLUMBING LICENSE AND MICHIGAN BACKFLOW TESTER

The State of Michigan does not currently have in place, requirements for maintaining certification as a tester of backflow prevention assemblies. Once an individual acquires certification as a tester they have no other obligation other than maintaining a current address with the plumbing division.

Currently the State of Michigan requires that to renew a plumbing license a licensee must attend 5 hours of ongoing education in the form of an approved code update class every time the plumbing code changes. The training center notifies the membership when this is about to occur and makes the necessary arrangements to provide this education.

Apprentices are required to renew their Apprentice Registration every year. They can only submit an application for Apprentice Registration renewal when they are working. If they are unemployed they must wait until they have returned to work to submit their application for Apprentice Registration renewal. This information will be used in the future to determine if an applicant for licensure testing has the requisite previous work experience.

MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER AND BRAZER

NITC’s website is at <http://www.nationalitc.com> .

NITC has available online, a form titled “Record of Continuity Brazer Qualification”, for an employer’s use, as well as the appropriate instructions for submitting this form. If the member is employed, continuity must be maintained through the employer.

The brazer continuity form for use by an employer is available directly, at the following web address: http://www.nationalitc.com/PDF/file53_recordofcontinuity.pdf

Unemployed members whose brazer certification is about to expire must contact the training center to avail themselves of an opportunity to maintain their brazer certification through continuity. There is a fee for maintaining brazer certification. Contact the training center to arrange for a brazing test to renew an expired brazer certification. There is a fee for maintaining continuity as well as testing.

WELDING

Welding continuity must be maintained by submitting “continuity papers” through the Local Union who will then notify the UA. A copy of the “Request for Update of Welder Status” (continuity paper) is available directly at <http://ualocal98.org/PDF/continuity.pdf> . The training center cannot submit continuity papers on anyone’s welding certification(s) for any reason nor can they witness a weld being made for continuity purposes. If a welder has a certification expire due to lack of continuity they must retest.