



# Do The Safety Geek Courses Come with a Certification?

Thank you so much for asking. This is a common question that deserves a more in-depth answer. I have created this document to explain my position on certifications.

## The Short Answer...

...is NO. At this time, The Safety Geek does not provide certifications. Upon completion of our paid courses, you can request a Certificate of Completion.

We choose not to offer certifications. When we do, we want the certification to actually mean something.

Any company can say that they will certify you. There is no law, regulation, or overseeing body that determines certifications. So Company ABC can offer its training and say "YES! You are now a certified safety manager!" If there isn't recognition or standards to that certification, then it's only their words giving it any meaning. That doesn't do the student any good.

## Do Certifications Matter?

Why are you asking this question? What do you want the certification to mean?

People like to collect credentials. But what matters about those credentials is what the person can do with them. The main purpose of a credential is to provide proof that you can do the job you say you can do.

- Certified Forklift Trainer - You can train people to operate powered industrial equipment
- Certified First Aid Trainer - You can train people on how to administer first aid and CPR
- Certified Ergonomics Specialist - You can identify and mitigate ergonomic related injuries
- Certified Industrial Hygienist - You can sample hazards in the workplace, scientifically determine the hazards, and provide guidance to mitigate the hazards.
- Certified Safety Professional - You have the experience in safety, have passed a rigorous examination to prove your knowledge and you have maintained your skills.
- Etc. etc. etc...



The problem is unless the certification is for an obvious reason (forklift, first aid, ergonomics), most employers won't recognize it. They won't even consider it in their hiring decision.

Employers rely on what they are familiar with. This is why The Board of Certified Safety Professional's CSP credential holds so much weight. They have made so very familiar that you see it listed on job qualifications.

Unless your certification is obvious or familiar, you'll have to explain the significance to a prospective employer. And you'll get passed over by someone who has a more familiar one.

Leaving the question - if it isn't a recognized certification, why even go for it? Instead, go with the company that gives you the BEST training. Learn to do your job so well that your results outweigh any certification you may be lacking.

## What Makes a Good Certification?

I'm not going to be a hypocrite. I do have a certification or three or four. Because they are good to have and they do give you skills and recognition.

When you're looking for certifications, here are a few key elements that keep an eye out for:

1. Requires a background check to verify your experience. Or the certification process requires you to prove you have the skills they're certifying you in. Classes that certify you just for sitting through the class, are not good certifications.
2. Requires that you maintain the certification through continuing education or re-examination. They need to have an expiration date.
3. The organization giving the certification cannot be the only organization where you can get training. This creates a conflict of interest. It should never matter where you got your skills to prove that you have them.

When certification and training are given by the same organization, a separation between the two departments is necessary. One department trains and one department certifies. This will reduce, but not eliminate, the conflict of interest.



## CEUs vs Certification

CEUs is short for Continuing Education Units. These are not certifications. These are classes, workshops, or seminars given by an accredited training program that is accepted by the organization that certified you.

For example. The CSP credential form BCSP requires 25 CEUs every 5 years to maintain the credential. That is equal to 25 hours of training.

Not every organization can give accredited CEUs. But many say they will give you CEUs in the form of a certificate of completion (nonaccredited). Unless the organization who certified you accepts them, they're not worth anything.

The most recognized accreditation comes from the IACET; the International Association for Continuing Education and Training.

## The Future of Safety Geek's Credentials

The Safety Geek does not intend to ever offer a certification. Instead, we promote the credentials of the BCSP. These are the most recognized certifications. Also, they align with our mission to elevate the position of the Safety Manager.

So, we are working to meet the requirements of the IACET. It is our goal to become an accredited training program and be able to offer CEUs for our online courses.

This accreditation does not come quickly or easily, especially for an online platform. When we meet the requirements and receive accreditation, we'll reach out to all our students and share the news.

*If you have any further questions, please contact Safety Geek Support at [support@thesafetygeek.com](mailto:support@thesafetygeek.com)*