



Associated Locksmiths of America, Inc.

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Training & Certification Department

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Why Become Certified?

The simple answer is that to remain as competitive as possible today, you must be certified. With the recent changes in security awareness caused by 9/11 the bar has been raised in the security profession. Employers, contractors, governments, and even clients are now taking additional steps to ensure that they are hiring or working with the most skilled and knowledgeable individuals in the security business. Many States are including in their licensing regulations the same requirements as those for ALOA's certifications. Professional certifications from ALOA offer another screening tool – one that has the backing and credibility of the preeminent professional association in the world for those who are responsible for locks, safes, and physical security.

Every profession requires specialized skills. Not every employer knows that you have those skills. In short, certification is an investment in your career, your livelihood, your future. However you want to say it, taking the initiative to gain certification verifies to your customers or employer that your skills are current, valuable and validated. Giving you personal satisfaction that you are a proven master of your profession. Plus you will have raised your own confidence level by providing you with the knowledge and abilities to take on new challenges.

If you want...

- To demonstrate your advanced knowledge as a locksmith/safe technician
- To gain instant professional credibility
- To advance your career
- To stand head and shoulders above the competition
- To increase your earnings potential
- To be a step ahead when licensing comes to your state

...then you should become certified today.

As an international trade association, ALOA recognizes professionalism and proficiency among locksmiths by granting the designations ALOA Fundamental Locksmith (AFL), Certified Automotive Locksmiths (CAL), Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL), Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL), and Certified Master Locksmith (CML). Available to all locksmiths, the Proficiency Registration Program (PRP) evaluates, through participation tracking and testing, the educational and technical competence of dedicated individuals in a wide range of subjects such as hardware installation, key duplication, automotive, high security cylinders, safe and vault locks, master keying, alarms, and access control devices.

Here are just a few of the locksmith certification levels that can be achieved through experience and education.

Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL)

The designation for Certified Registered Locksmith is - CRL. John Doe, CRL, has passed the ten mandatory categories, as well as at least two specialized electives of his choice. This locksmith has a good working knowledge of general locksmithing.

Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL)

The designation for Certified Professional Locksmith is - CPL. John Doe, CPL, has earned the CRL designation and has successfully demonstrated proficiency in an additional twelve elective categories. This locksmith has an advanced knowledge of general locksmithing and of many specialized areas.

Certified Master Locksmith (CML)

The designation for Certified Master Locksmith is - CML. John Doe, CML, has reached the highest level of ALOA's Proficiency Registration Program. Certified Master Locksmith designates an individual who has successfully completed ninety percent of the available categories of the Proficiency Registration Program. This locksmith has advanced knowledge of most areas of locksmithing and electronic security.

Certified Automotive Locksmith (CAL)

The designation for Certified Automotive Locksmith is - CAL. John Doe, CAL, has passed the Certified Automotive Locksmith exam and has a good working knowledge of all aspects of vehicular locksmithing.

GENERAL LOCKSMITHING CERTIFICATION CATEGORIES

The Proficiency Registration Evaluation currently consists of thirty-six categories, ten of which are mandatory. The mandatory categories are Codes and Code Equipment; Cylinder Servicing; Key Blank Identification; Key Duplication; Key Impressioning; Professional Lock Opening Techniques; Lockset Functions; Lockset Servicing; Basic Master Keying; and Cabinet, Furniture and Mailbox Locks.

The remaining twenty-six categories are electives which may be selected according to each locksmith's field of specialization or expanding knowledge. This number will vary as technology changes. Each elective contains between twenty-five and forty questions, depending on the subject covered.

CERTIFICATION LEVELS

To achieve the Certified Automotive Locksmithing designation, a passing grade (70%) is required on the exam.

To achieve the first level of general locksmithing certification, Certified Registered Locksmith, a passing grade (70%+) is required on the mandatory section and any two electives.

To achieve the intermediate level of certification, Certified Professional Locksmith, a passing grade (70%+) is required on each of any twelve additional electives.

To achieve the highest level of certification, Certified Master Locksmith, a passing grade (70%+) is required on each of any nine of the remaining electives.

ALOA has certified 3,900 of our members nationwide with an additional 2,500 who are presently in the early stages of certification. ALOA provides the licensing exam for the State of Illinois Department of Professional Regulation and has worked with other city and state agencies in setting up their qualifications for locksmith hiring and requirements for licensing.