

Louisiana Food Safety Manager Certification: Frequently Asked Questions

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[LDH Food Safety Manager Certification Rules and Regulations Questions](#)

Q. Why do I need the state certificate?

A. In 1999, Louisiana Legislature passed law that requires one person in each food establishment to obtain a state issued certificate. This was done to ensure the providers are credentialed with the testing company and the certificates are authentic. The Office of Public Health regulates with public health in mind. The training ensures at least one person has gained knowledge through an extensive food safety curriculum and will be able to pass that on to others while managing activities in the work place. The code may be referenced at *Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 51, Part XXIII, Chapter 3. §305.*

Q. Who has to post a State of Louisiana food safety certificate?

A. One person, either an owner, manager or employee, in each retail food establishment is required to obtain and post a state food safety certificate. This certificate, with the gold seal, is a separate certificate than the certificate issued by the testing company. There are a few establishments exempt from needing a LDH Food Safety Certificate which are noted within the code referenced above. The cost of the state certificate is \$25.00.

Q. Can I take my certificate with me if I change jobs?

A. The certificate belongs to the certificate holder, which is the person who took the Food Safety Manager Training and passed the proctored exam, not the place of business. The contact info for the certificate holder of the testing certificate must be provided in the Applicant Information instead of the company's contact info when applying for a LDH Food Safety Manager Certificate. Providing contact information other than the actual certificate holder's personal contact phone and email address may delay processing and could ultimately result in the application and payment being returned to the applicant. A certificate may be transferred to a new place of business no matter who paid for the training and state issued certificate. The certificate holder can contact this office to change the establishment information linked to their certificate by contacting (225)342-7773 or 225(342)7688. Companies requesting to relink an establishment for employees will be requested by our office to have the actual certificate holder verify the change with our office.

Q. Can I order or make copies of my certificate to post if I own or manage several locations?

A. No. The intent of the Code is for the certificate to be held "exclusively" at one establishment. The certificate cannot be held at multiple locations. Each food establishment must have a designated food manager certificate and state certification. That person should have Active Managerial control of the food in the establishment and pass the gained knowledge on to employees and as well as be able to monitor the employees to ensure proper food safety practices are accurately upheld.

[Applying for the LDH Food Safety Manager Certification Questions](#)

Q. What is the required training for the state certificate?

A. The accepted ANAB approved certificates are issued by ServSafe, National Registry of Food Safety Professionals, 360Training, and Above Training (State Food Safety), Always Food Safe, 1 AAA Food Safety, World Food Safety, EduClasses, and Responsible Training. First, the applicant must take an *8 hour Food Safety Manager course and pass the proctored exam* to obtain the Food Safety Manager Certification.

Q. What information do I need to apply for the LDH Food Safety Certificate?

A. After you receive the testing certificate from the ANAB approved testing company, fill out the paper Application for LDH Food Safety Manager Certificate that can be found at www.eatsafela.gov. Also, provide a \$25.00 company check or money order payment written out to LDH. Mail all three components to the mailing address on the bottom of the paper application. Continue on the next page for info about credit card payments via the LDH Food Safety Manager Certificate online application.

Q. Can I pay for the state certificate with a credit card?

A. Yes, our office has an online application that requires a credit card payment instead of company check or money order payment. The online application charges an additional non-refundable credit card processing fee up to \$3.19 per application. Go to www.eatsafe.la.gov under “Helpful Information”, then go to “Food Safety Certificate Information”. The direct link to the online application is provided at: <https://la.accessgov.com/oph/Forms/Page/food-safety-certification/order-form/o> . More details for how to apply online is also available on www.eatsafe.la.gov.

Q. Can I order a duplicate of my state issued certificate?

A. A duplicate certificate may be issued if a current certificate is lost or damaged. The certification cannot be expired. Multiple certificates will not be issued at the same time or for posting in multiple locations. A duplicate certificate is \$12.50.

Q. Will the class instructor give me the application for the state certificate?

A. Some of the instructor/proctors may give you the form. If not, go to www.eatsafe.la.gov under “Helpful Information”, then “Food Safety Certificate Information” for the most current application.

Q. When will my certificate expire?

A. The state certificate expires (5) five years from the date of the proctored exam. For example, if your exam was taken on 9/20/2022, both the testing certificate and the state issued certificate will expire on 9/20/2027.

Q. Is there a public database where I can look up who has a certificate?

A. No. But you can contact this office with a first and last name of the certificate holder and we can check for a certificate in our database. At this time a search can be done based on certificate number or the name of the certificate holder only.

[Food Safety Manager Course and ANSI Approved Exam Questions](#)

Q. Where can I find a class schedule?

A. Private sector companies or individuals offer the course and exam in person and class dates will vary from business to business. There is a list of state registered providers on our website www.eatsafe.la.gov at “For Existing Businesses” “For New Businesses” and “Food Safety Certification Information” under Helpful Information. **This is not a complete list of all providers who offer the exam** and you are **not** required to use a provider on this list, although it is in your best interest to ensure the provider is certified through the testing company.

Q. What does it mean when your office says my instructor/proctor is not registered with the Louisiana Department of Health?

A. The instructor/proctors are not required by the testing company to register with the state of Louisiana. However, for the state certificate to be issued Louisiana code requires this office, at a minimum, to verify the credentials of the exam provider. If that particular provider is registered within our (for office use only) database, there is no delay in processing the state certificate. The provider registration is free of charge and the applications may be requested by contacting the Retail Food Program at 225-342-7773. We can add registered providers to the list of providers offered online if the provider meets qualifications and requests the addition.

Q. I’ve taken the course and exam before but my certificate expired. Can I just renew my certificate?

A. New coursework and a new exam must be passed to obtain the Food Safety Manager Certification, which is required to apply for the state certificate. Testing companies update the test material based on the most current version of the Food and Drug Administration Food Code.

Q. What accommodations can be made for those taking the exam?

A. The exams are often written in several different languages depending on need as determined by the testing company. The provider will be able to give information on the offered languages, translators, extended time, etc. All accommodations must be approved by the testing company and should be discussed with the provider of the exam when the course/exam is scheduled.

Q. Can I take the exam online?

A. Local providers of the Food Safety Manager course and exam may provide computer based online exams, or written (paper) exams. **Exams taken with local providers must be proctored in person whether online or written.** Remote online proctored exams are only available at the ANSI Approved testing company website (www.ServSafe.com, www.nrfsp.com, www.StateFoodSafety.com, www.360training.com, www.alwaysfoodsafes.com, www.1AAAfoodhandler.com, academy.worldfoodsafety.org, and www.foodmanagerscertification.com). Remote online proctored exams require a desktop or laptop computer, internet connection, a computer webcam, a computer microphone, and a private room where the test taker will not be interrupted during the exam so that a proctor can monitor the test taker. Our office recommends that before purchasing the remote proctored exam, the purchaser should test the compatibility of the device on which the test will be taken (Smart phones, and tablets without attachable keyboards are not allowed). The option to test the compatibility is typically in the general area of the Remote Proctored Exam Option on the company website. Check the company website prior to purchase for additional requirements the company may have. Also, be aware that there may be an additional charge for the remote proctor service separate from the cost of the course and exam. This is because most of the testing companies use a third party proctor, such as Proctor U, to monitor the test taker during the exam. Remember to register for the correct course. The online providers offer several certifications relating to food service. *The 8 hour Food Manager’s Certification is the required certificate for the state certification.*

Q. What should I do if I’ve lost my testing company certificate?

A. You may contact the testing company for a duplicate of the certificate. *Contact information below.*

Q. How do I find out who the Program Sponsor and the Instructor/Proctor were for my exam? This information is required on the state certificate application.

A. If you are unsure who gave your exam, contact the testing company with your name and certification number. ServSafe in particular has a “certificate verification” tool on the website that is very easy to use.

ServSafe	1-800-765-2122	www.servsafe.com
National Registry	1-800-446-0257	www.nrfsp.com
360Training	1-877-881-2235	www.360training.com
Above Training	1-801-494-1416	www.statefoodsafety.com
Always Food Safe	1-844-312-2011	www.alwaysfoodsafes.com
1 AAA Food Safety	1-714-592-4100	www.aaafoodhandler.com
World Food Safety	1-313-580-2823	academy.worldfoodsafety.org
State Food Safety	1-801-494-1416	www.statefoodsafety.com
Educlass	1-903-893-3717	www.foodmanagerscertification.com

If the exam was taken at a testing center, put the training provider information or website for the Program Sponsor and the name and city location of the testing center for the Instructor/Proctor. If the exam was taken with a remote online proctor, note “online proctor” on the instructor/proctor line.

For your reference: The printed signature on the testing company certificate is **not** the Instructor/Proctor. Your application may not be processed without the correct Training Program Information.

Q. Do I get a gold seal on my testing company certificate?

A. No. We do require a copy of your testing company certificate for processing; however, you will receive a new state issued certificate with a gold seal after submitting an application with our office.

Q. The certificate that I obtained from the testing company is a Food Handler Certification. Is this the same certificate I need to apply for the state Food Safety Manager Certificate?

A. The Food Handler Certification is not the correct certification needed for the LDH Food Safety Certificate. The Food Handler certification does not provide as much information for how to manage food safety in a food establishment, but it does help to educate the employees of basic food safety principals. The Food Handler Certification exam is also not a proctored exam. The Food Safety Manager Certification from the ANSI Approved testing company educates on how to achieve Active Managerial Control of Food Safety to reduce the risk of foodborne illness, and it requires the exam taker to be proctored by a Registered Proctor.

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