

Irrigation Contractor Certification

The expectation for an irrigation contractor to be nationally certified is growing throughout Florida and the Southeastern United States. The United States EPA through the Water Sense® program recognizes the IA CIC certification as the exclusive way to become a partner. In the state of Florida, the Florida Water StarSM program will soon begin to require a CIC certificate. Additionally, state, county, and local districts are all looking to those professionals who have the proper credentials as leaders in water conservation to support their irrigation initiatives.

The Irrigation Association's Certified Irrigation Contractor is now considered an industry standard and has been the basis for irrigation contractor licensing in North Carolina, New Jersey, and other states. Moreover, a nationally recognized certification gives the contractor a means to show the extra value of their company or an employee a way to increase their worth to their employer.



Training Course and Certification Exam



The Florida Irrigation Society is sponsoring a two-day irrigation contractor training session to review the requirements of a competent irrigation contractor with IA certification exams to follow.

Register separately for the class and the exam.

Irrigation Contractor Training

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23^d & 24th, 2010

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days – Register with the Florida Irrigation Society online.

IA Certification Exams

Thursday, March 25th

9:00 AM – Register with the Irrigation Association online www.irrigation.org.

All of the events are being held at the: **Palm Beach County Extension Office**
559 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

The training course uses materials officially license by the Irrigation Association. It is an ideal format to review the essentials of irrigation contracting as part of a study plan to prepare for the IA Certified Irrigation Contractor exam.

Please review the two recommended study tracks on the next page. These will give you the best opportunity to pass the exam



Certification as an Irrigation Contractor is a two-step process.

The classroom training is optional, but a proven tool to prepare for the certification exam.

Step 1 - Applying to the Program and Registering for the Exam

To apply to the program and register for the exam, fill out the Certified Irrigation Contractor Program Application & Registration and **submit to the Irrigation Association** with payment. The is a minimum requirement off at least one year of work experience in an irrigation-related field with a total of at least three years of irrigation-related field experience. **Your application/registration must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the exam with payment.**

The forms can be downloaded from the IA website at:

<http://www.irrigation.org/certification/default.aspx?pg=forms.htm&id=91> or the FIS website at www.fisstate.org. After your application has been received and verified by the IA, you will receive a letter informing you of your status in the program and a confirmation of the exam date and location.

(IMPORTANT: You are not registered to take the exam until you receive a confirmation.)

Step 2 – Take and Pass the Examination

In order to become certified, you must take and pass the Contractor examination. The examination is a 4-hour, closed book exam consisting of 180 equally-weighted, multiple choice questions. The content and approximate percentages for each area can be found in the CIC Application/Registration Bulletin. You can take the exam at any time, not just at the exam date in conjunction with a particular class. The IA website (www.irrigation.org) will post exam dates and sites. All IA exams are given at all exam sites and dates.

Two Day Contractor Training Course

The Florida Irrigation Society is sponsoring a two-day review course entitled Irrigation Contractor Training. This course has two main functions:

1. To help professionals in the irrigation industry understand what is expected of a competent irrigation contractor and to identify areas and topics in which they should be proficient, so as to be profitable and professional.
2. To refresh the existing skills of irrigation contractors.

During the two-day class, students will review advanced soil-water-plant relationships, advanced hydraulics and design principles, pumps, job safety requirements, national plumbing and electrical codes that affect our industry, basic business skills for a contractor, scheduling, water conservation, and details about system uniformity and efficiency.

About the Instructor

Kurt Thompson owns K Thompson & Associates, LLC, a water use and training consultant with over 28 years of landscape and irrigation experience working in contracting, distribution, and manufacturing. He is also a contributing author of the IA Certified Irrigation Contractor Workbook, the CIC class curriculum, as well as other IA certification programs and manuals. Mr. Thompson is an Irrigation Association supervising instructor, teaching for the IA for 19 years, and taught the very first IA certification training course (CLIA). He is only one of eight people in the world to hold all of the IA landscape irrigation certifications. Kurt creates an energetic learning environment that puts some fun into the review of the technical information. He will even give proven studying tips to prepare for the exam.

Exam Preparation Recommendations

In order to pass the certification exam, you should expect to spend at least 30 to 60 hours of self-study. There are two recommended tracks of preparation for the exam:

Preparation Track A

1. Apply for the program and register for the exam through the Irrigation Association (at least 30 days prior to the desired exam date).
 - a. Order the *Irrigation Contractor Workbook* from the IA (can be ordered with the Application or purchased separately) or other recommended exam references.
2. Study for 30 to 60 hours (30 days) on your own.
3. Define the material with which you need help.
4. Take the 2 day Irrigation Contractor Training course to become proficient in your weak areas of knowledge.
5. Take the exam given in conjunction with the class.

Preparation Track B

1. Apply for the program through the Irrigation Association (you can also register for a future exam date).
 - a. Order the *Irrigation Contractor Workbook* from the IA (can be ordered with the Application or purchased separately) or other recommended exam references.
2. Review the book to define the material with which you need help.
3. Take the 2 day Irrigation Contractor Training course to review the material on which you need to concentrate your studying.
4. Study for 30 to 60 hours (minimum of 30 days) on your own.
5. Take the exam. (Be sure to sign up at least 30 days prior to your desired exam date.)

Training Course Registration

To register for the training course, call the Florida Irrigation Society at either 800-441-5341 or 813-839-4601, or email Jennifer at administrator@fisstate.org to receive the forms. You can also log onto the website www.fisstate.org and find all the links and registration forms for the training course and IA application and exam registration. Complete the registration form for the 2-day training course and return it to the FIS. You can order the course textbook when you register for the IA certification program/exam or purchase it separately at www.irrigation.org/bookstore.

FIS Members receive IA member prices for a limited time only!

FIS members receive a 50% off the regular IA Contractor membership dues.

Become an FIS member for \$200 and save \$335 for the application, exam, class, and manual!

Fees			
Description	FIS & IA Members	Non-Member	To Order/Apply
<i>Certification Application Fee*</i>	\$50.00	\$175.00	IA
<i>Exam Fee*</i>	\$200.00	\$300.00	IA
2 Day Class Tuition (register with the FIS)	\$250.00	\$350.00	FIS
<i>Irrigation Contractor Workbook*</i>	\$45.00	\$55.00	IA
<i>OPTIONAL: IA Contractor Membership</i>	\$200.00	\$400.00	IA
<i>FIS Affiliate Membership**</i>	\$50.00	--	FIS

* Apply for the program, register for the exam, and order the manual directly with the Irrigation Association – www.irrigation.org
 ** Employees of FIS member companies will need to join the FIS as an Affiliate member to receive Member rates.