



The Top 10 Reasons to Become IA Certified in Florida

1. EPA Water Sense

The EPA program is fast becoming recognized by agencies all across the United States as the benchmark for products and service providers. IA Certification is required to become an EPA Water Sense Partner. (www.epa.gov/watersense)



2. Florida Water Star™



The Water Star program has been embraced by St. John's River Water Management District and South Florida Water Management District to drive the essential water conservation for residential development and individual homes (www.floridawaterstar.com). This program will require (2011) that a contractor hold one of three IA certifications to be qualified to install irrigation: Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC), Certified Irrigation Designer – Residential (CID-R), or Certified Irrigation Designer – Commercial (CID-C)

3. Save \$345 for a Limited Time with a Special Rate

For a limited time, FIS members can pay the IA member rate for the program application, the review class, and the exam. This is a savings of \$345! Becoming IA certified involves a couple of steps: Complete the IA program application so the IA can verify your credentials required to become certified, and IA registration form to take the exam. Sign up for the review class with the FIS preparing for the exam. All three are currently being offered to FIS member at the IA membership rate. When this expires, you will need to become an IA member (\$200 for FIS members).

4. Florida Agencies Now Require IA Certification

A growing list of city, county, and state organizations are requiring or preferring that contractors have an IA certification to perform work for their agency, such as Miami Dade County Schools and Toho Water Authority. With the pressure to conserve water resources, the list is sure to grow quickly.



5. Become “Green” Through Water Resource Conservation

People throughout the state of Florida are turning their support to companies who are part of the solution to environmental concerns. IA Certification proves that you are doing your part.

6. Makes You More Valuable to an Employer or Customer

Competition is tough enough because of the economy. Whether as an individual or a company, every advantage is needed to be a success today. IA Certification provides your employer or customer a verifiable means to judge you as a credentialed professional.

7. National Recognition

Many states outside Florida require or give preferred standing to contractors with IA certifications. In states such as North Carolina and New Jersey, contractors with the IA certifications were allowed “grandfather” status that waived the exam when obtaining the newly required state irrigator’s license.

8. Florida Has Reached Its Water Limit

The Florida state water management districts have a limit to the amount of water that can be used. As the population continues growing, water conservation is no longer voluntary. Installing and managing irrigation will not be a casual career much longer. It will be limited to credentialed professionals.

9. Invest in Your Employees

What better way to retain and inspire your employees that to invest in their professional development? You would invest in a new piece of equipment if you thought it would improve your company. Employee development improves your company.

10. Work Smarter - You Have The Time

Even though it seems that the business climate forces you to work more hours just to keep up, less business allows time to acquire the tools to work smarter. IA certification is the tool that enhances you or your company, which opens doors that might otherwise be closed.

Information regarding the review class and the Irrigation Association certification application and exam registration can be found on the FIS website www.fisstate.org or from the IA website www.irrigation.org.