



CAS Certification Eligibility Requirements

An industrial painter has two tracks to become eligible to take the “interim” Level II certification exam:

***Track one* - have at least 2000 hours of documented practical experience and a minimum of 150 hours of classroom training**

***Track two* – have at least 3000 hours of documented practical experience and less than 150 hours or no formal classroom training.**

The Exam

Once determined eligible by SSPC, the painter must pass a written, closed-book 100-question multiple-choice exam and a hands-on skills assessment in order to achieve CAS certification.

The written exam covers the fundamentals of surface preparation of steel, coating application, blast cleaning and spray-painting equipment, and safety. The hands-on exam requires the painter to demonstrate competence in blast cleaning and spray application. The hands-on assessment requires each candidate to abrasive blast and spray coatings on a steel test panel constructed in accordance with ASTM D 4228 and to meet the coating manufacturer’s product data sheet (PDS) requirements. Candidates must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during the hands-on session and must be able to answer questions about troubleshooting if things go wrong with the abrasive blasting system or spray pump operation.

After achieving certification under the CAS program, the painter

does not have to retake any segments of the exam during his or her career, unless the certification expires.

Note 1: A craft-worker that is SSPC Coating Application Specialist (CAS Level II) Certified is considered to have met and exceeded the qualifications of an individual who is SSPC C7 or SSPC C12 Certified or both.

Note 2: Candidates who took their C7 and C12 hands on exam after January 1, 2012 may substitute their C7 and C12 hands on exam results for the CAS Level II hands on blaster and sprayer exam, if they have achieved a score of 90% or greater on each exam.

Note 3: The US Navy, which currently specifies C7 or C12 as acceptable craft worker qualifications, is scheduled to also accept CAS Level 2 certification as an alternative craft worker qualification with publication of the next release of Standard Item 009-32 FY 16 and the United Facilities Guide Specification [UFGS] for Interior Coating of Welded Steel Petroleum Fuel Tanks.

Applying Other Industry Certifications Toward CAS

SSPC allows tradespersons who have already achieved other industry certifications to get credit toward CAS Level 2 Certification.

C-7 (Blaster Certification) & C-12 (Spray Painter Certification)

Many blasters and painters have achieved SSPC C-7 or C-12 certifications in order to perform work for facility owners who specify these certifications.

A craft worker who has achieved C-7 certification can apply that certification toward CAS certification. Having a valid C-7 certification exempts someone applying for CAS from having to take the hands-on abrasive blast-cleaning segment of the CAS exam.

Experience Requirements for the C7: Dry Abrasive Blaster Certification Program:

Students wishing to achieve the C7 Certification must pass the written and hands-on exams.

Each student must also obtain written confirmation from his or her employer's human resource manager that the student has done a minimum of 800 documented hours experience blasting

in an industrial or marine environment prior to qualifying for the C7 Certification. (Note: CAS has a higher work experience requirement)

The written multiple-choice exam is worth a maximum of 100 points. The hands-on evaluation is also worth a maximum of 100 points. Candidates wishing to achieve the C7 Certification and CEUs must attend all 16 hours of the certification and pass the written exam with a score of 70% and the hands-on exam with a score of 90%

Similarly, spray painters who have achieved C-12 certification can apply that certification to get an exemption from having to take the hands-on spray-painting segment of the CAS exam.

Experience Requirements for the C-12: Spray Application without Simulator Plus Certification 2 Days

Students wishing to achieve the C12 Certification must pass the written and hands-on exams.

Each student must also obtain written confirmation from his or her employer's human resource manager that the student has done a minimum of 800 documented hours experience applying protective coatings with airless spray in an industrial or marine environment prior to qualifying for the C12 Certification.

The written multiple-choice exam is worth a maximum of 100 points. The hands-on evaluation is also worth a maximum of 100 points. Candidates wishing to achieve the C12 Certification and CEU's must attend all 16 hours of the certification and pass the written exam with a score of 70% and the hands-on exam with a score of 90%.

All students that choose to use their C-7 or C-12 hands on exam in the CAS program must still meet the experience and training requirements of the CAS program.