



# ★ IACLEA CORPORATE PARTNER ★ e-Newsletter

► Volume 4  
► Issue 4  
October 2016

## Professional Certifications: What They Mean When Choosing a Security Consultant

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You see them on business cards, listed in resumes and highlighted in project proposals: three or more letters listed after someone's name. You know they are not for academic degrees, but what do they represent? More importantly, if you are deciding upon a Security Consultant, what do they tell you about the consulting firm and its team?

What we are talking about are professional certifications, of which there are three broad types: corporate, product-specific, and profession-wide. This listing can be thought of as being in order from the lowest to the highest in terms of complexity and portability. Each is discussed in more detail below.

### Organizations and Examples

Corporate certifications are designed by companies for an internal business purpose. For example, a company might have a training course on their product for sales personnel, a manufacturing firm may require proficiency on a particular piece of custom equipment, or a fast-food restaurant may train workers on each stage of the preparation process. After training, the employee receives a company certification. This kind of certification is the simplest and easiest to develop. It provides a way to recognize employees and encourage them to complete training. However, corporate certifications have limited portability, meaning they are the least likely to have value to other business operations.

Product-specific certifications, which are more involved, are tied to a product or service used for multiple purposes. This approach is common in the information technology industry where technicians are certified on a version of software for systems or hardware. While product-specific certification is portable across locations and industries, it does not transfer to other products.

The most general type of certification is profession-wide. An established and recognized professional organization might establish a certification program in order to apply best practices and standards, increase skill or competency levels, and protect the public or consumer. The professional group determines the criteria and process for attaining certification, which can include a proven length of time working in the field, an academic degree or professional coursework, continued training, competency testing, and even background and reference checks. Profession-wide credentialing is intended to be portable to all places a certified professional might work.



Examples of professional certifications are found in the healthcare and medical, accounting (CPA), aviation, engineering, finance, and consulting fields.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Standard 1100, defines the requirements for meeting the ANSI standard for being a certifying organization. According to ANSI, a professional certifying organization must meet two requirements:

1. Deliver an assessment based on industry knowledge, independent from training courses or course providers.
2. Grant a time-limited credential to persons who meet the assessment standards.

These are the differences between a certificate and certification.\*

### The Value of Professional Certification When Choosing a Security Consultant

The intent of professional certification programs is to establish standardized competencies among individuals working in the industry and to help ensure that the most current techniques, strategies and solutions are applied. This is highly important when providing recommendations to mitigate safety and security risks inherent to a particular organization.

Certification provides a way for the individual and consulting firm to build on previous security experience, strengthen relationships with peers in the field, and demonstrate a commitment to personal and professional development.

Certification helps the security professional stay up-to-date and allows them the opportunity to share this information with clients.

Earning a certified professional designation demonstrates to others that the consultant has a broad understanding of all

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of the domains important to the client: financial, community engagement, technology, and strategic planning, to name a few, not just “security.”

Source:

NOCA Standard 1100: “Certificate” vs. “Certification”, Adam Andrews, CIEC  
<http://www.acac.org/forms/otherpdfs/NOCA%20Article%203-09.pdf>

Background Information ICE 1100 2010 (E) – Standard for Assessment-Based Certificate, Lenora G. Knapp, Ph.D., James Kendzel, MPH Programs, Institute for Credentialing Excellence, [www.credentialingexcellence.com](http://www.credentialingexcellence.com)

### The SRMC Team

The team at Security Risk Management Consultants has excelled by attaining a variety of highly recognized and coveted business, professional, and program-specific certification awards. These include:

Abbreviation	Meaning	Certifying Organization
CPP	Certified Protection Professional	ASIS International
PSP	Physical Security Professional	ASIS International
CPTED Practitioner	Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Practitioner	FAU Institute for Design and Construction
CSC	Certified Security Consultant	International Association of Professional Security Consultants (IAPSC)
CHPA	Certified Healthcare Protection Administrator	International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS)
APS	Advanced Professional Series Certificate	FEMA Emergency Management Institute
PDS	Professional Development Series Certificate	FEMA Emergency Management Institute
CLEE	Certified Law Enforcement Executive	Law Enforcement Foundation
CSSP	Certified Sports Security Professional	National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS <sup>4</sup> )
CIPM	Certified Institutional Protection Manager	International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection (IFCPP)
CFE	Certified Fraud Examiner	Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)

SRMC is also certified as a Women’s Business Enterprise from WEBNC, the Women’s Business Enterprise Council. Our firm has earned the Federal EDWOSB Certification from the U.S. Small Business Administration through the U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce as well.