

Considerations Regarding New Jersey State Licensing Requirements

Facts	Questions to Consider
Licensing Exam vs ISA Certification Exam	
<p>There is no clearly-defined process for the establishment of the licensing exams and no identified third-party monitoring of the process for establishment of the exam to ensure it is fair to the candidates. ISA follows the ISO 17024 standard when developing all credentialing programs with the ISA Certified Arborist® credential accredited and maintained by ANSI. The ISO 17024 is an internationally-recognized standard that requires constant monitoring and auditing of the credential to ensure it adheres to the standard.</p>	<p><i>Is there a defensible process for the proposed licensing exams for Licensed Tree Expert or Licensed Tree Care Operator to confirm that they are developed in a fair and unbiased manner to ensure equality?</i></p> <p><i>Will there be an audit of the Board's work regarding exam development and the on-going exam performance?</i></p>
<p>There is no explanation of how testing will be developed to measure specific knowledge or skills based on a risk analysis or industry performance standards. The ISA certification program development is based on a Job Task Analysis (JTA) process that surveys the industry internationally every five years to ensure that the certification program remains relevant to the industry. These results determine the domains/topic areas of the exam and are reviewed by subject matter experts.</p>	<p><i>What is the basis of exam development for the licensing exams and the process for ensuring the exams remain relevant to the industry?</i></p> <p><i>Is there some form of accepted standard the licensing exams will follow requiring a Job Task Analysis for industry acceptance?</i></p>
<p>ISA certification programs determine passing scores scientifically using the Angoff method.</p>	<p><i>How is the passing score determined for these licensing exams?</i></p>
Reciprocity of Credentials to Qualify for Licensing	
<p>7:3A-3.9 of the proposed licensing rules state that the Board at its discretion may grant a reciprocity license to individuals who hold an equivalent license or certification.</p>	<p><i>Which licenses or certifications are considered equivalent? No list has been provided.</i></p> <p><i>How do you gain reciprocity status as another credentialing body?</i></p> <p><i>What was the vetting process for current, similar programs to receive reciprocity, and is there documented follow-up with those programs as to why they did or did not qualify?</i></p>
<p>The proposed guidelines for becoming a Licensed Tree Expert or Tree Care Operator may be met with the New Jersey Certified Tree Expert (CTE) credential. In comparison to the CTE, ISA certification is already approved, is used in more than 60 percent of municipalities across the US, and is an ISO-certified credentialing program.</p>	<p><i>Can ISA credential holders be assured that applicable ISA credentials—Certified Tree Worker™, Certified Arborist™, Board Certified Master Arborist™ at minimum—will be accepted as meeting the requirements for licensing to forgo the exam portion of the licensee application?</i></p> <p><i>If not, could this be considered a restraint of trade?</i></p>

Economic Impact on Arborists Currently Doing Business in New Jersey	
<p>Tree care companies will no longer be able to do business in the State of New Jersey unless they pay a \$200 biennial registration fee to register their businesses with the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts.</p>	<p><i>How does this impact companies from surrounding states who may do business in New Jersey?</i></p> <p><i>Can they register to do business in New Jersey?</i></p> <p><i>Are they not allowed to do business unless they have a business office located in the state?</i></p>
<p>To register a business employers must have at least one licensee employed by the business. Those with multiple locations must have a licensee at each location.</p>	<p><i>Business owners may have to pay for employees to be licensed in order to have a licensee on staff to fulfill the requirement for the business to be registered.</i></p> <p><i>Multiple fees are associated with this process for someone not already licensed (\$50 application fee; \$100 exam fee; \$75 license fee)</i></p> <p><i>If accepted in reciprocity, individuals with existing credentials, such as ISA certification, will be required to pay a \$75 reciprocity application fee plus the \$75 license fee.</i></p>
Continuing Education Requirements	
<p>The CEU requirement for a Licensed Tree Care Operator or Licensed Tree Expert is 32 CEUs in the two-year period via CEUs from approved organizations and associations.</p>	<p><i>Who are the approved organizations /associations and what is the process for them to become approved to offer CEUs?</i></p>
<p>The Board may disallow any continuing education credit claimed by a licensee if the activity on which it is based is not relevant to the practice or theory of arboriculture or urban forestry.</p>	<p><i>What are the specific requirements for CEU approval and where are they outlined?</i></p> <p><i>Which practices and theories of arboriculture are they referencing?</i></p>