

September 8, 2025

Upcoming Programmatic Changes to the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Credential

ATLANTA, Ga. — The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), under the guidance of its [Credentialing Council](#) and with the support of subject matter experts, announced significant updates to the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (ISA TRAQ) program in February 2025 through the *Arborist News* publication. These programmatic changes will become effective 5 November 2025, and include updates to the credential's terms of validity, training materials, and written and performance-based examinations.

This decision follows the most recent Job Task Analysis (JTA) for the program and the ISA Credentialing Council's guidance based on international standards (ASTM 2659-24). ISA routinely conducts JTAs for all credentials to ensure they remain current and relevant to the industry, employers, and the general public. For ISA TRAQ, the JTA process involved a comprehensive review of the program's scope and learning objectives, leading to changes in the training content, materials, and examinations.



Key Changes to the ISA TRAQ Program (effective 5 November 2025)

- **Term of Validity:** The ISA TRAQ credential will now be valid for seven (7) years, extended from its previous five (5) year term.¹
- **Elimination of ISA TRAQ Renewal Program:** To earn a new certificate for the ISA TRAQ credential after expiration, credential holders must complete the full ISA TRAQ program, including retraining and retesting. The ISA TRAQ Renewal program will be discontinued following publication of the updated program.²
- **Examination Updates:** There will be changes to the ISA TRAQ program impacting both the written and performance-based components of the examination.³
 - **Written exam:** Expanded from 100 to 110 multiple-choice questions, including 10 pretest questions used for exam development. Candidates will continue to have two (2) hours to complete the exam, with a required passing score of 75%. The exam will now be divided into three domains, with the following question distribution:

Domain in the examination	Percentage of questions associated with domain
Assessment Methodology	61%
Basic Tree Assessment and Risk Analysis	21%
Reporting Assessment Findings and Recommendations	18%

¹ The seven (7) year validity applies only to candidates who complete the updated ISA TRAQ program (with revised content, materials, and assessments) after 5 November 2025. Any candidates completing or renewing under the current version of the ISA TRAQ program will continue to earn a certificate valid for five (5) years.

² Please note, the ISA TRAQ Renewal Program will remain available under the current version of the program. Renewal under this version will maintain a certificate valid for five (5) years.

³ The current version of the ISA TRAQ examination will continue to be available after 5 November 2025 for candidates needing to retake the exam for up to one year from the start date of their original ISA TRAQ program.

- **Performance-Based Exam (PBE):** The PBE will incorporate a revised [Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form](#) to evaluate candidates' ability to perform a basic tree risk assessment in accordance with the ISA TRAQ curriculum.
- **ISA TRAQ Candidate Materials:** To support reliable and consistent delivery of program resources, promote fairness and impartiality, and reduce ISA's carbon footprint, candidates approved for the ISA TRAQ program will no longer automatically receive printed materials by mail. Instead, all participants will be provided digital access to the materials required to prepare for the program.

ISA extends its appreciation to its Credentialing Council, volunteer subject matter experts, and the more than 3,000 ISA TRAQ credential holders who contributed input through the JTA validation survey. Their expertise and feedback were vital in shaping these updates and ensuring the credential continues to meet professional and public needs.

ABOUT ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., U.S., is a nonprofit professional organization dedicated to promoting the importance of arboriculture and educating the public about the significance of trees and the value of their proper care. As part of ISA's advancing of the arboriculture profession, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information about ISA and Certified Arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com.