

Certification Requirements In ESSB 5831 (As Passed House)

	General	Process	Work experience necessary to get certification	Alternatives to work experience and/or certification	Certification exam	Grandfathering	Certificate renewal and continuing education
HVAC/R Contractor Registration	Any person/company engaging in business as an HVAC/R contractor must register as HVAC/R contractor with L&I. Must also be registered as a general or specialty contractor.	Register with L&I. For a person/company issued two or more registrations, L&I is to establish single document.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No grandfathering, but contractors have until June 30, 2009 to register as an HVAC/R contractor.	Valid for 2 years. No continuing education requirement.
Temporary HVAC/R	For individuals who have performed HVAC/R work in other states or countries looking to work in WA.	Submit application, meet requirements.	HVAC/R I: 2000-4000 hours HVAC/R II: 4000-8000 hours HVAC/R III: 8000+ hours	None.	None.	N/A	Valid for maximum of 90 days. Must take HVAC/R exam within 90 day period.
Trainee	Scope of work defined by the trainee certificate. Work under supervision.	Submit application.	None.	N/A	None.	N/A	Valid for 2 years. Must complete 60 hours of supplemental instruction or equivalent training courses prior to renewal date.
HVAC/R Operator	For HVAC/R operating engineers, defined as full time employees who spend a substantial portion of time in the maintenance and operation of HVAC/R equipment and systems in a building.	Submit application, pass exam.	None.	A person issued a valid refrigeration operating engineer license by Seattle shall be issued a certificate without taking exam.	Yes. Developed by L&I and comparable to the current refrigeration operating engineer license test used by Seattle.	None.	Valid for 3 years. No continuing education requirement.
HVAC/R I	Limited scope of work.	Submit application, meet requirements, pass exam.	1000 hours, 100% supervised; or 2000 hours, 75% supervised	Completed apprenticeship program; may substitute up to 1000 hours of approved technical college program; and hours of HVAC/R training received in armed forces. Must still take exam.	Yes. Developed by L&I.	Yes. Until 2010, will be grandfathered in at the appropriate mechanic level based on work experience since 1988.	Valid for 3 years. Must complete 24 hours of continuing education prior to renewal date.

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HVAC/R II	Limited scope of work.	Submit application, meet requirements, pass exam.	4000 hours, 75% supervised	Completed apprenticeship program; may substitute up to 2000 hours of approved technical college program; and hours of HVAC/R training received in armed forces. Must still take exam.	Yes. Developed by L&I.	Yes. Until 2010, will be grandfathered in at the appropriate mechanic level based on work experience since 1988.	Valid for 3 years. Must complete 24 hours of continuing education prior to renewal date.
HVAC/R III	Unlimited scope of work.	Submit application, meet requirements, pass exam.	4000 hours, 75% supervised, plus 2000 hours, 100% supervised; or 8000 hours, 75% supervised	Completed apprenticeship program; may substitute up to 4000 hours of approved technical college program; and hours of HVAC/R training received in armed forces. Must still take exam.	Yes. Developed by L&I.	Yes. Until 2010, will be grandfathered in at the appropriate mechanic level based on work experience since 1988.	Valid for 3 years. Must complete 24 hours of continuing education prior to renewal date.
Specialty	Three specialties: Gas piping, refrigeration, HVAC. Three levels of certification within each specialty. Limited scope of work.	Submit application, meet requirements, pass exam.	Same as respective HVAC/R mechanic level requirements	Completed apprenticeship program; may substitute hours of technical college program at same rate as HVAC/R mechanic; and hours of training received in armed forces. Must still take exam.	Yes. Developed by L&I.	Yes. Until 2010, will be grandfathered in at the appropriate mechanic level based on work experience or local jurisdiction licensing.	Valid for 3 years. Must complete 24 hours of continuing education prior to renewal date.

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Provision applicable only to gas piping specialty			For gas piping specialty mechanic I/II: If a person has passed required modules of a national certification program and been issued an equivalent level of certification by the National Propane Gas Association, that person is entitled to a gas piping I/II specialty mechanic certificate.			