



Achieving Certification

Key Points and Requirements

How Certification Benefits You and Your Business



- Increase your professional profile
- Gain professional visibility and credibility
- Receive a listing on the AARST-NRPP website where consumers frequently search
- Enhance your marketability and business opportunities
- Distinguish yourself from your peers

AARST-NRPP



- To become certified, individuals must complete an AARST-NRPP approved entry level course and pass an AARST-NRPP radon certification exam in the 12 months prior to applying for certification.
- AARST-NRPP is currently accepting some state certifications, that are current and in good standing, in lieu of course and exam requirements. Please contact the AARST-NRPP Administrative Office for information.



Four Levels of Primary Certification

- **Residential Measurement Provider:
Standard Services**
- **Residential Measurement Provider:
Standard & Analytical Services**
- **Residential Mitigation Provider**
- **Analytical Laboratory**

Residential Measurement Provider: Standard Services



- **Places and retrieves measurement devices for analysis by a certified laboratory.**
- Individuals holding the Residential Measurement Provider certification have demonstrated knowledge of U.S. EPA radon measurement protocols for the placement and retrieval of radon measurement devices. They have also demonstrated knowledge of the proper interpretation of results obtained in residential settings.
- These individuals are authorized to place devices that are analyzed by an AARST-NRPP certified analytical laboratory. Depending upon the location of the analytical laboratory, results are not generally available immediately upon conclusion of the radon test.
- Although this classification is specific for measurements in homes, it does not preclude the ability to conduct radon measurement surveys in large buildings or to take samples for radon in water, provided that the appropriate protocols are followed.

Residential Measurement Provider: Standard Services



- **Step 1:** Take an AARST-NRPP approved [entry-level Measurement course](#)
- **Step 2:** Take and Pass the [AARST-NRPP Measurement Certification Exam](#)
- **Step 3:** Complete and Submit the [AARST-NRPP Initial Application for Certification](#)



Residential Measurement Provider: Standard & Analytical Services, Part 1

- **Places and retrieves measurement devices for analysis by a certified laboratory, and/or analyzes specific measurement devices on behalf of a client (but not for other measurement professionals).**
- Individuals holding a Residential Measurement Provider for Standard and Analytical Services have demonstrated knowledge of U.S. EPA radon measurement protocols for the placement and retrieval of radon measurement devices. They have also demonstrated knowledge of the proper interpretation of results obtained in residential settings.
- Furthermore, these individuals possess and analyze radon measurement devices. Depending upon the specific device, this may allow for rapid provision of test results. The testing professional may also be able to characterize trends in radon concentration and determine unusual conditions arising from such influences as weather changes or occupant tampering of a test.



Residential Measurement Provider: Standard & Analytical Services, Part 2

- To obtain this additional classification, individuals follow strict quality assurance and quality control guidelines and device specific protocols, and calibrate each instrument **annually**. The classification is specific to devices with which an individual has demonstrated proficiency.
- Although this classification is specific for measurements in homes, it does not preclude the ability to conduct radon measurement surveys in large buildings or to take samples for radon in water, provided that the appropriate protocols are followed.



Residential Measurement Provider: Standard & Analytical Services

- Step 1:** Take an AARST-NRPP approved entry-level Measurement course
- Step 2:** Take and Pass the AARST-NRPP Measurement Certification Exam
- Step 3:** Complete a Device Performance Test
- Step 4:** Complete a Proof of Calibration
- Step 5:** Complete and Submit the AARST-NRPP Initial Application for Certification

Residential Mitigation Provider



- **Works to reduce the radon levels in the home through various approved remediation techniques.**
- Individuals holding the Residential Mitigation Provider certification have demonstrated knowledge of radon mitigation techniques as applied to residential structures.
- Although this classification is specific for reducing radon in buildings similar to homes, it does not preclude the individual's ability to apply these skills to larger buildings.
- In all cases the consumer is advised to verify experience, references, licenses, and skills for the nature of work to be performed.
- Certified radon mitigation service providers have also agreed to abide by local laws as well as the mitigation techniques detailed in the U.S. Radon Mitigation Standards.



Residential Mitigation Provider

- **Step 1:** Take an AARST-NRPP approved [entry-level Measurement course](#) (Pre-requisite)
- **Step 2:** Take an AARST-NRPP approved [entry-level Mitigation course](#)
- **Step 3:** Take and Pass the [AARST-NRPP Mitigation Certification Exam](#)
- **Step 4:** Complete and Submit the [AARST-NRPP Initial Application for Certification](#)

Analytical Laboratory



- **Distributes and analyzes radon measurement devices to certified measurement and mitigation firms or to the general public.**
- The Analytical Laboratory Certification is for firms that analyze radon and radon decay measurement devices on behalf of residential measurement providers and/or the public.
- A laboratory must designate an individual as the Responsible Party who is responsible for quality assurance and quality control aspects of the operation of the laboratory.
- The Responsible Party must be AARST-NRPP certified as a residential measurement provider.

Analytical Laboratory



- **Step 1:** Select a Responsible Party for the laboratory that is AARST-NRPP certified as a Residential Measurement Provider with either Standard Services or Standard & Analytical Services.
 - ❖ *If you choose to be listed and considered the Responsible Party and you are not yet certified, please see instructions regarding Residential Measurement Provider certification.*
- **Step 2:** You, the Responsible Party, or an AARST-NRPP certified professional from your laboratory must complete a [Device Performance Test](#) for any and all analytical device type(s).
- **Step 3:** Complete and Submit the [AARST-NRPP Initial Application for Certification](#).
- **Step 4:** Complete and Submit the [AARST-NRPP Lab Attest Form 2016](#).

Certifications Are Valid For 2 Years



To maintain certifications, professionals must recertify. This means completing the appropriate amount of credit hours of AARST-NRPP approved continuing education, and meeting all other requirements that pertain to a particular certification(s). The renewal applicant must complete and submit the appropriate AARST-NRPP Recertification application and provide the proper recertification payment.



I have taken and passed the entry level exam. Am I now certified with AARST-NRPP?

- **Not yet!** You still have a few more steps to complete before you are certified with AARST-NRPP.
- Complete and mail the AARST-NRPP initial application for Certification. An application can be found on the AARST-NRPP website link: <http://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/certification/how-to-become-certified/>
- Once an individual completes the application and includes all required paperwork (**copies** of your Course Completion Certificate and your Exam Results Letter) and pays the appropriate fee(s), then the individual will have to mail or ship (FedEx or UPS) the complete packet of information to the AARST-NRPP Administrative Office.



I have taken and passed the entry level exam. Am I now certified with AARST-NRPP?

- It will take approximately **three (3)** weeks from the date of **receipt** into the AARST-NRPP Administrative Office to complete the certification process, provided a complete application, supporting documents, and appropriate payment is submitted.
- The cost for an initial certification is \$225.00 plus other fees (if applicable), which will depend on the type of certification you are obtaining.
- Certifications are valid for two (2) years. Currently the cost for renewing a certification is \$205.00 plus other fees, if applicable.
- To maintain your certification, renewal requirements must be met.

How long do I have to apply for certification?



- An individual has **one year** from the date of passage of the certification exam to mail in the application with **ALL** the appropriate paperwork and payment. **Incomplete applications will not be processed.**

Analytical Device Fees



- If you provide Standard & Analytical Services the base fee is \$225.00.
- You will need to decide the type of standard (passive) and/or analytical (active) device that you will use to provide radon results.
- There are seven Device Groups (next slide).
- For each Analytical Device Group you list:
“Total # of Groups” _____ X \$75.00 = _____

Approved Device List – Seven Groups



- **CR**-Continuous Radon Monitor
- **AC**-Activated Charcoal Absorption
- **AT**-Alpha-Track Detectors
- **LS**-Charcoal Liquid Scintillation
- **ES**-Electret Ion Chamber (Short-Term)
- **EL**-Electret Ion Chamber (Long-Term)
- **BC** – Blind Continuous Monitors

I have taken and passed the entry level exam. Am I now certified with AARST-NRPP and my state?



- If you took the AARST-NRPP Certification exam in order to be licensed or certified in a regulated state, then you will need to check with your state radon office to determine the next steps needed to complete their requirements.

Three AARST-NRPP Advanced Certificates



(Prerequisite: Must hold a current AARST-NRPP Primary Certification)

- **Multifamily Mitigation**
- **Multifamily Measurement**
- **Radon Resistant New Construction**

❖ **What Do I Have To Do to Obtain an Advanced Certificate?**

- Possess and maintain a valid primary AARST-NRPP Certification (Measurement or Mitigation).
- Successfully complete an approved AARST-NRPP Advanced Certificate Course.
- Complete the required AARST-NRPP Workbook assigned by the Approved Course Trainer.
- The Trainer will issue the Course Completion Certificate.
- Once the AARST-NRPP administrative office is notified that one of these courses has been completed, then a registration form will be mailed to the individual to complete and submit back to the administrative office with a \$50 processing fee.



AARST-NRPP Performance Testing and Calibration Policy

- Since the inception of the program, AARST-NRPP has required that Standard & Analytical professionals using analytical devices, including Responsible Parties for Analytical labs, must complete a device performance test to become certified.
- The Performance Test has to be repeated on a biennial basis (every two years) in order to maintain certification.
- The calibration must be completed annually.
- ❖ **Note:** *All Analytical Laboratories and Residential Measurement Providers offering Standard & Analytical Services are required to submit devices for a performance test before specific analytical devices are added to your certification. You may initially enter the program as offering standard services and add devices at a later date (after successful performance test passage).*

Device Performance Testing



- Device performance testing is unique in that the analytical service provider is now being graded on their ability to produce accurate and reliable radon test results. Although there is knowledge that the tests are taking place, there is no prior knowledge of the radon chamber environment.
- The results of the performance tests are going to be related to the quality of the calibration and maintenance services, but more importantly, the device performance test indicates whether or not the user knows his/her equipment well enough to produce an accurate assessment of the radon chamber conditions.
- This is very similar to the every day scenario of testing a house. Although you know your going to go into the house to perform a test, are you going to be able to give your client a report that is truly indicative of the radon levels inside?

Device Performance Testing



- Unlike calibrations, which are required for every unit in inventory, device performance tests are required for only one unit of each **type** device utilized by the provider.
- For example, if a professional has five identical continuous monitors, a single test is needed to assure AARST-NRPP that he/she can provide accurate results with that type of unit.
- However, if a professional has two different types of equipment requiring different operation (start/stop, memory clearing, printing, etc.), then one test is needed for each type of monitor utilized.

Calibration



- Calibration is done for the purpose of establishing that the equipment is functioning properly. The chamber operator or manufacturer most commonly does this without any input from user or owner of the monitor. The monitors are cleaned, serviced and sent back to the owner with a certificate or sticker showing that calibration has been completed successfully.
- This is very similar to taking your automobile in for a tune-up, in that an expert services the car, replaces any worn-out parts and gives it back in the best shape possible.
- Calibration is needed for **every unit** on an annual basis.
- Calibration of devices, such as activated charcoal or alpha track detectors, is much more laborious. It requires many chamber exposures and also requires the laboratory to ensure that the calibration factors are adjusted according to the information gathered from the device exposures.

Spikes



- Spikes are also done in a radon chamber, but are done on an ongoing basis to ensure that the equipment is still operating as well as possible.
- After the radon chamber exposures are completed, the devices are returned to the owners with an explanation of the radon chamber environment, including the pCi/L (and/or working levels), temperature, relative humidity and length of exposure.
- The owner has to determine whether the equipment is still functioning according to the last set of calibrations or whether service may be needed on the system.
- For users of activated charcoal, liquid scintillation and alpha track detectors, spiking provides important information about the quality of the laboratory analysis since the devices are submitted to the lab without their prior knowledge that they were actually spiked.

AARST-NRPP Approved Performance Test Chambers



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***Note:** Certified performance test chambers also offer calibration and spiking services as required by Quality Assurance/Quality Control.*