

## NEW YORK CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN LAW

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 1) What does the New York central service technician law require?

The NY central service technician law requires a central service technician to be certified and maintain continuing education credits. Certain individuals are grandfathered in and do not have to be certified (“grandfathering” is a provision in which an old rule continues to apply to some existing situations, while a new rule will apply to all future cases). The law requires ten (10) hours of continuing education for all practicing central service technicians annually (even for those who were grandfathered in).

#### 2) Which healthcare facilities are required to have certified CS techs?

Hospitals and ambulatory surgical hospitals are required to have certified CS techs; however, these healthcare facilities are subject to other conditions. Please see other questions below.

#### 3) May a person who was employed during the one-year period from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2015, but does not meet the other qualifications in the law, switch facilities?

To be grandfathered as a central service technician, a central service technician must provide evidence of his/her employment that he/she was employed as a central service technician in a healthcare facility for a period of one year during the four years immediately prior to January 1, 2015. Therefore, individuals who had a different job title, such as surgical technologist, may not switch facilities by being grandfathered in as a central service technician. He/she must be certified as a CRCST or CSPDT to switch facilities and work as a central service technician.

#### 4) May healthcare facilities require CRCST or CSPDT as a condition of employment, even if an individual is grandfathered in?

Yes, healthcare facilities may require CRCST or CSPDT for individuals hired as central service technicians.

#### 5) Who may healthcare facilities hire as central service technicians?

A central service technician must provide evidence to his/her employer of meeting one of the following requirements:

- a) Successfully passed a nationally accredited central service technician exam, and holds and maintains CRCST or CSPDT; or
- b) Provides evidence of employment as a central service technician in a healthcare facility for a cumulative period of one year, occurring within January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2015; or
- c) Is a student or intern under the direct supervision of a licensed or certified healthcare professional; or
- d) When the law takes effect January 1, 2015, a healthcare facility may employ a person who has not passed the certification exam for 18 months from the date of hire. By the 18<sup>th</sup> month anniversary of the individual’s hire date, he/she must obtain the CRCST or CSPDT.

**4) May a healthcare facility hire a person who has not yet passed the certification exam?**

Yes. When the law takes effect January 1, 2015, a healthcare facility may employ a person who has not passed the certification exam for 18 months from the date of hire. By the 18<sup>th</sup> month anniversary of the individual's hire date, he or she must obtain the CRCST or CSPDT.

**5) May a healthcare facility hire a person who is not certified, but has been employed as a central service technician in a healthcare facility for a one-year period from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2015?**

Yes. A healthcare facility may hire someone as a central service technician if he or she was employed as a central service technician in a healthcare facility for a one-year period from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2015. Healthcare facilities may require central service technicians to hold CRCST or CSPDT credentials.

**6) Are nurses exempt from having to be certified?**

Yes, as long as a nurse is acting within the scope of his or her practice, he/she does not have to hold a CRCST or CSPDT. Also, other healthcare professionals that are licensed or certified pursuant to Title VIII of the Education Law may not have to be certified if they are acting within their scope of practice.

**7) What other professions are exempt from having to be certified if the profession falls under Title VIII of the Education Law?**

If the healthcare professional is licensed or certified pursuant to Title VIII of the Education Law, they may not have to be certified if they are acting within their scope of practice. Title VIII of the Education Law includes physicians, physician assistants, chiropractic, dentistry, dental hygiene, certified dental assistants, licensed perfusionists, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, physical therapist assistants, pharmacy, nursing, midwifery, podiatry, optometry, ophthalmic dispensing, engineering and land surveying, architecture, landscape architecture, public accountancy, shorthand reporting, psychology, social work, massage therapy, occupational therapy, dietetics, speech language pathologists and audiologists, acupuncture, interior design, athletic trainers, mental health practitioners, respiratory therapists and respiratory therapy technicians, medical physics practice, and applied behavior analysis.

**8) Do endoscopy professionals have to be certified and/or maintain the continuing education of a Central Service technician under this law?**

This will depend on the job requirement and job description for the professional. Hospital attorneys will have to determine if this profession falls under the Central Service technician law or not.

**9) How does a person earn the CRCST or CSPDT?**

The pathway for earning the CRCST or CSPDT is taking their respective exams. Visit [www.iahcsmm.org](http://www.iahcsmm.org) or [www.sterileprocessing.org](http://www.sterileprocessing.org).

## 10) Will a central service technician earn more money now that certification is required?

This is determined by your healthcare facility and is not addressed in the law. A word of caution: Central service professionals should be aware that asking this question (or simply bringing the topic of monetary compensation into the discussion) in the presence of state elected officials or healthcare executives can jeopardize our efforts in other states.

## 11) What are the continuing education requirements?

All central service technicians in New York must earn 10 hours of continuing education each year, even if the individual maintains CRCST or CSPDT certifications. The requirement of 10 hours of continuing education is a minimum standard, meaning that certifying bodies may require an individual to maintain more than 10 hours of credit. For example, the easiest way to comply with the law and simultaneously meet IAHCSMM's requirements for the CRCST credential is to complete 12 hours of continuing education each year.

## 12) Are there exemptions for the continuing education requirements?

Individuals may receive an extension for medical leave or active duty in the military.

## 13) When do the continuing education credits become required?

The continuing education requirement becomes effective January 1, 2015. Each healthcare facility's human resources department will determine the exact date the first 10 hours of continuing education must be completed.

## 14) What happens to me if I do not get certified and/or attain my required continuing education credits?

After January 1, 2015, if you do not fall into the grandfathering clause, being certified is required in order to be employed as a central service technician in the state. All CS techs, regardless of the grandfathering clause, will be required to maintain the continuing education credits.

## 15) Where can the text of the law be found?

Scroll down to NY on this page and click on NY Central Service Technician Law:

<http://www.iahcsmm.org/advocacy/cs-state-laws.html>

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