

Certified Instrument Specialist (CIS) PILOT EXAM (OCTOBER 1-15, 2025) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



When is the CIS pilot exam?

Get ready for the next evolution of the Certified Instrument Specialist (CIS) credential! We're thrilled to announce exciting updates designed to ensure the CIS exam remains the gold standard in recognizing the expertise of instrument specialists. This October, we'll be launching a pilot/beta version of the updated exam, offering a unique opportunity to be among the first to experience the new format and content. Participating in the pilot exam provides invaluable feedback that will shape the final version of the exam, and as a thank you for your contribution, pilot participants will receive a discounted exam fee on their application. This is your chance to get a sneak peek at the future of the CIS certification and play a vital role in its development!

What are the incentives to participate in the CIS pilot?
The immediate incentive for participants is a **30% discount** on the exam fee. Applicants will pay **\$98.00** to register for the pilot exam.

The CIS pilot exam is offered **October 1–15, 2025**. Candidates must be able to sit for the exam between these dates to participate in the pilot.

What is tested on the CIS pilot exam?

This is a pilot form (beta test) of the new CIS exam that will launch officially on December 25, 2025. Candidates can find more details online at myhspa.org/certification/pilotexam.

How many people can participate?

Our goal is 200 pilot participants with global representation. Once 200 individuals have registered, HSPA may discontinue further sign-up for the pilot.

What language is the CIS pilot exam offered in?

As with all HSPA exams, the pilot will be offered in English only.

How can I prepare for the pilot exam?

HSPA recommends reviewing the new **CIS Exam Content Outline** and the list of **top used reference books**.

What are the prerequisites to apply for the CIS pilot exam?

To apply for the pilot exam, you must successfully demonstrate skills through completion of hands-on work experience. These 200 hours of hands-on experience must take place in a SP department and must have occurred within the past five years. For more details on the 200 hours, please see the application.



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How do I sign up for the pilot exam?

All you need to do is fill out the pilot application form, and once approved, schedule to take your exam between **October 1–15, 2025**.

Will I need to fill out a different application?

Yes, there is a separate pilot application form for the CIS. Please ensure you use the Pilot Application.

How is the October pilot different from the full launch of the exam in December?

The exam is the same. The pilot exam allows us to test new exam questions according to the new exam blueprint and gather data before the new CIS exam goes live. However, pilot participants will not receive a pass/fail score immediately upon finishing the exam. Exam analysis will occur for several weeks following the pilot end date, and candidates can expect to receive their results by late November, 2025.

Candidates who take the exam starting in December, 2025 will receive their results immediately at the testing center.

When will pilot participants receive their exam results?

Candidates will receive notification of a passing or failing result, as well as certification or information on applying to test again, by November, 2025.

Important Dates

All applications for the current examination testing period need to be received by HSPA	August 1, 2025
All applications for the Pilot examination need to be received by HSPA ...	September 15, 2025
Final day of testing for the current CIS exam	September 23, 2025
Pilot exam window (all those testing on the pilot must test within this window)	October 1 - 15, 2025
Blackout period (no testing for the CIS examination)	October 16 - December 24, 2025
Pilot exam results released	late-November, 2025
Regular testing for the CIS resumes	December 25, 2025