



# A Look at DHI's Credentials and Certifications

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**Does becoming certified in your industry really matter?** If you're happy with the same old, same old, then becoming certified isn't for you. But you may be surprised to hear that a credential and certification can be your ticket to that dream job or position. It is a third-party attestation of your level of knowledge or proficiency.

More and more employers are looking for, and promoting internally, certified people. New job postings are listing certification as "highly desirable," "an advantage," "preferred," or "a plus." I can share with you from personal experience that pursuing and achieving my certifications have helped me exponentially in my career and set me on a path of lifelong learning. So yes, becoming certified really does matter! If you are considering growing yourself both personally and professionally, then DHI has more for you than ever before.

DHI's legacy credentials have stood the test of time. The Architectural Hardware Consultant certification (AHC) has a legacy of more than 75 years and is recognized throughout the world as a hallmark of door hardware technical expertise both inside and outside our industry. DHI has had a renewed surge in industry members interested in obtaining their AHC credential—and sitting for their exam—since I joined DHI. The best part of my job is having the privilege of sharing in the excitement of my students, friends, and colleagues when I get to inform them they have passed their examination and earned their AHC credential. While the new credential and certification program

evolves, I don't foresee the recognition or importance of the AHC going away any time soon.

The Certified Door Consultant (CDC) and Electrified Hardware Consultant (EHC) technical competencies are incorporated into the new credential program to serve the evolving needs of DHI members and stakeholders better. Both certifications will continue to be offered for those in the midst of earning the credential or those pursuing the Architectural Opening Consultant (AOC) credential. All the legacy credentials will continue to be supported and promoted by DHI whether or not the "minting" of these consultants continue.

The new Door and Hardware Technician (DHT) credential was launched and is in full swing. Finally, industry members now have an option for a mid-level credential they can obtain, either on their way to an upper level credential or just to demonstrate their technical competence on an intermediate level of complexity of occupancy type.

The best thing about the DHT is that it was created taking industry experience into mind. You don't have to be a veteran DHI student to pass this exam. You may already have the industry knowledge to go out and take it. This exam went through rigorous testing with subject matter experts and was then beta tested with a group of individuals, some who have taken DHI education in the past and some who had not.

It is also the first DHI exam that was created to be fully automated. You

will know the results of your exam immediately after submitting your answers. As of today, more than 50 industry members now hold this credential, and more than 700 more have enrolled in the practice test in preparation to take the exam. The DHT is a pre-requisite for any of the new upper level credentials, so it is a great stepping stone if you are in pursuit of a new certification. The DHT may be the best next step you take in your career.

The Door and Hardware Consultant (DHC), and Access Control System Consultant (ACSC) will be the next new credentials to launch. Be on the lookout for more information on the availability of those exams in the coming months.

And finally, as the requirement for fire and egress door inspections grows and grows—in part due to the recent enforcement initiatives within health-care and universities—the Fire Door Assembly Inspector (FDAI) program continues to grow and evolve. Stay tuned for exciting news about a new certification program—Certified Fire and Egress Door Assembly Inspector (CFDAI)—as well as a certificate program Door Assembly Inspection Technician (DAIT) that will be offered for inspection technicians assisting FDAIs with inspection and maintenance activities.

There are lots of exciting changes and improvements happening at DHI. Join us and be a part of the evolution! ■

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