

ABOUT THE SMA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Why is certification needed for stucco?

- Lath and plastering are skilled trades and training is critical to a successful installation
- Training and education have continually dropped and the SMA felt action was needed
- Having verifiable training provides an assurance the job will be done right

What does certification mean and entail?

- Certification is a process to provide official documentation to a status or level of achievement
- The process includes education and testing to verify comprehension
- SMA Contractor Certification includes references and a background check
- All learning is on-line and no module is over 30 minutes long
- Testing is based on comprehension, not memorizing numbers or statistic, the SMA believes installers and supervisors that understand how and why are better than workers that can just memorize numbers or standards.

Are there levels of certification? The SMA offers a variety of levels of certification

- Lathers (L) Modules 1-2 (English/Spanish)
- Plasterers (P) Modules 3-5 (English/Spanish)
- Lather/Plaster (LP) Modules 1-5 (English/Spanish)
- Supervisors (LPS) Module 6 -after passing the L&P tests (English Only)
- Home Inspectors (HI) Module 7 (English Only)

Module Curriculum

Lathers (Module 1-2) Course covers lath materials, codes and standards relevant to lathing, tools, safety, per-installation inspection and tips on lathing. The course has many videos on the installation on Water Resistant Barriers (WRB), lath and trim accessories. The modules will explain why lathing and flashing are critical to a successful stucco wall assembly. Explanations on how stucco systems manage water, how windows and penetration flashing work. After the video, you will understand how lath works and is integral to the flashing of penetration items, as well as trim accessories such as control joint, expansion joints and corner beads. Each module is 30 minutes with a 50-question test for those wanting certification on Lathing (L).

Plasterers (Module 3-5) Course covers materials, codes and standards relevant to plastering, tools safety and tips on using the straight edge, machine applications and floating the basecoat. The course covers how to trowel smooth coat cement finish and make stucco more crack resistant. Plasterers will learn proper mixing, the difference between acrylic and cement finishes and various textures used around the US. Each module is 30 minutes. With a 50 question test for those wanting certification on Plastering (P) . LP certification is for those who pass both tests.

Supervisors (Module 6) Course is available to those who pass the lath and plaster tests. Course covers building science, code compliance, estimating, and risk management. Upon passing the 50 question test a certificate (LPS) will be issued. This means you have passed lathing, plastering and supervision to be LPS Certified

Home Inspector: This is a stand-alone module designed for the home inspector. Course will include basics and then help identify potential issues with stucco. Course also helps in writing a report that more accurately reflect buyer and seller issues for stucco homes.

THE SMA CERTIFIED CONTRACTOR: The prime goal is to have developers select the more qualified stucco contractor as opposed to just selecting the lowest bid. The SMA certified contractor will be vetted, and have to meet all the following to be approved by the SMA board.

- Have been in business more than 2 years and submit a minimum 5 completed projects
- Submit 3 reference letters (architect, developer, stucco manufacturer/supplier)
- Sign an SMA Agreement (quality, standards, etc)
- Must have in their employ at least one LPS certified supervisor (may be the owner)
- Certification is rescinded if the LPS supervisor is no longer employed by contractor

What does it cost and do I have to join the SMA to become certified?

Cost varies for modules. SMA Certified Contractors may enroll into the SMA Silica Compliance Program. The Compliance Program provides contractors a written silica exposure plan, competent person training and annual updates to the plan (OSHA required). Certificates can only be given upon passing the required test(s)

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| ○ Lathers test | \$ 75.00 |
| ○ Plasterers test | \$ 75.00 |
| ○ Lather/Plaster test | \$ 100.00 |
| ○ Supervisor (includes L/P test) | \$ 150.00 |
| ○ Inspectors Test | \$ 50.00 |
| ○ SMA Contractor Certification | \$ 500.00* (Includes one year SMA membership) |

** SMA contractor members will receive 5 free Lath and/or Plaster test(s) certifications for their employees each per year. Supervision exam and certification is extra.*

Why should I become certified?

SMA Certified Contractors demonstrate a status and level of achievement within the stucco industry. This helps provide owners assurance their stucco job will be done right. SMA Certified Contractors will also have access to various experts on lath, stucco, code, building science and litigation support.