



Building Performance Institute (BPI) Certification in California

BPI Certification – Raising the bar in Home Performance contracting

BPI is the home performance contracting industry's credentialing organization and is well recognized, credible, and rigorous. The greatest benefit is to be part of a national initiative to bring about systematic improvement to the performance of our nation's 110 million existing homes. Whole-house performance, energy efficiency and combustion safety are central to BPI certification testing. Your BPI certification demonstrates your knowledge and competence in these areas.

BPI Certification Specialties

Become BPI certified in one or all of these specialty areas: Building Analyst Professional, Envelope Professional, Heating Professional, and Air Conditioning/Heat Pump Professional.

Preparatory Courses

No courses are required to test for BPI certification. However, we encourage all students to prepare for written testing by completing the Green Home Energy Upgrade series including Level 1, 2, and 3 courses (the earlier five-day or six-day versions are substitutes for Level 1 and 2). Approximately 85% of students who complete these courses will pass their written exams on first attempt. All four BPI specialty written exams are offered on the 3rd day of the Green Home Energy Upgrade Level 3 - BPI certification training course. Students who take the Level 3 course are not required to pursue BPI certification.

Costs of BPI Certification

Students who choose to take BPI tests are required to pay the mandatory BPI test fees. As an affiliate of BPI, California Building Performance Contractors Association (CBPCA) offers BPI exams for the discounted fee of \$125 each. To be certified in each specialty area, a student must successfully pass a written exam and the corresponding field exam. If, for example, a student wishes to be certified as a BPI Building Analyst Professional, the cost is \$250 for test fees (\$125 for one written exam and \$125 for one field exam) plus the cost of the test proctor, which is \$250 and which covers the proctor's hourly rate for testing, travel time and mileage.

Field Exams

To prepare for BPI field testing, students need to have some experience testing homes. This experience can be gained either on-the-job, through participation in a utility Home Performance training program, or by participating in a small group or individual contractor-funded field training, which CBPCA can help arrange. CBPCA schedules field exams when we have sufficient demand. To schedule a field test, contact Harry Ford at 510-444-8707, ext. 206.

NATE Certification exemption

Students who are already North American Technical Excellence (NATE; <http://www.natex.org/>) service tech certified in Air Conditioning and Heat Pump will not have to take the Air Conditioning/Heat Pump BPI written exam, but will still need field testing to be BPI certified in this specialty. Proof of the NATE designation is required by BPI.

Continuing Education Requirements

BPI requires the following continuing education every three years to maintain certification.

Hours of technical training:

If 30+ hours of documented technical training in 3 years

If 10-29 hours of technical training:

If less than 10 hours of technical training:

BPI testing required:

field proctoring only

50 question written test + field proctoring

100 question + field proctoring

Most building science related coursework qualifies as technical training.

For more information about BPI, visit their website here: <http://www.bpi.org/index.htm>

For questions about BPI testing in California, call Harry Ford at 510-444-8707, ext. 206