



# Recertification by CERPs Guide

*For individuals recertifying as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant®*

## Table of Contents

<b>What is IBLCE®?</b> .....	2
<b>IBLCE Offices</b> .....	2
<b>IBLCE Websites</b> .....	2
<b>Contact Information</b> .....	2
<b>Key Dates for Recertification by CERPs</b> .....	2
<b>Recertification by CERPs Application Deadlines</b> .....	3
<b>Recertification by CERPs Requirements</b> .....	3
<b>Finding CERP Approved Education</b> .....	3
<b>Individual Application for CERPs</b> .....	3
<i>R-CERPs</i> .....	4
<b>Documentation of CERPs</b> .....	4
<i>Application Audit</i> .....	4

## What is IBLCE®?

IBLCE®, or the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners®, is the independent international certification body conferring the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) credential.

## IBLCE Offices

IBLCE is comprised of 4 offices:

- International Office (IO) in Falls Church, VA, USA
  - Central office
  - Executive Director: Sara B. Lake, J.D., CAE
- Americas (AMS) office in Falls Church, VA, USA
  - Serving North, Central and South America, and Israel
  - Regional Director: Anna Utter, IBCLC
- Asia-Pacific (AP) office in Queensland, Australia
  - Serving Australia, Asia Pacific and Africa
  - Regional Director: Karolyn Vaughan, IBCLC
- Europe and Middle East (EUME) office in Baden bei Wien, Austria
  - Serving Europe, the Middle East and northern Africa
  - Regional Director: Ilse Bichler, IBCLC

## IBLCE Websites

IBLCE has 4 websites, one for each office, because of the need for regionalized information and the large number of translated documents.

- International Office: [www.iblce.org/home](http://www.iblce.org/home)
- AMS Regional Office: [www.americas.iblce.org](http://www.americas.iblce.org)
- AP Regional Office: [www.iblce.edu.au](http://www.iblce.edu.au)
- EUME Regional Office: [www.europe.iblce.org](http://www.europe.iblce.org)

## Contact Information

For matters pertaining to the Board of Directors or IBLCE policy, please contact the International Office. Inquiries about the IBLCE certification program and examination should be sent to the regional office that serves your country:

- International Office: [international@iblce.org](mailto:international@iblce.org)
- AMS Regional Office: [iblce@iblce.org](mailto:iblce@iblce.org)
- AP Regional Office: [rd@iblce.edu.au](mailto:rd@iblce.edu.au)
- EUME Regional Office: [office@iblce-europe.org](mailto:office@iblce-europe.org)

To find out which regional office serves your country, go to [www.iblce.org/home](http://www.iblce.org/home) and use the “Find Office in Your Country” search function found in the upper right-hand corner of the webpage.

## Key Dates for Recertification by CERPs

<b>January 31</b>	MILCC Scholarship Application Postmark Deadline: Monetary Investment for Lactation Consultant Certification (MILCC) awards scholarships to deserving IBLCE exam candidates. Visit <a href="http://www.milcc.org">www.milcc.org</a> for details.
<b>February 28</b>	First Postmark Deadline for Recertification by CERPs
<b>July 31</b>	Second Postmark Deadline for Recertification by CERPs
<b>Late September</b>	IBCLC Certificate and ID card mailed
<b>October 31</b>	IBCLC Certification Expires

## Recertification by CERPs Application Deadlines

Two application deadlines are offered to IBCLCs who are recertifying by CERPs. Applications postmarked by the first deadline are eligible for discounted fees.

<b>First Deadline</b>	February 28
<b>Final Deadline</b>	July 31

## Recertification by CERPs Requirements

IBCLCs must recertify every 5 years. Five years after last passing the exam, IBCLCs have the option to recertify by Continuing Education Recognition Points (CERPs). One CERP is equal to 60 minutes of education that IBLCE has determined meets the learning needs of practicing IBCLCs.

IBLCE awards three (3) different categories of CERPs to continuing education:

- L-CERPs are awarded to education that is specifically about human lactation and breastfeeding and the provision of care to breastfeeding families.
- E-CERPs are awarded to education that is about professional ethics, conduct and standards for health professionals.
- R-CERPs are an optional category that covers education that is in any way related to the practice of lactation consulting.

In order to recertify by CERPs, IBCLCs must obtain at least 75 CERPs in the intervening 5 years since they last passed the exam. These 75 CERPs **MUST** meet the following minimum requirements:

- At least 50 L-CERPs and
- At least 5 E-CERPs and
- At least 20 additional CERPs, which may be L, E or R-CERPs

For the purposes of Recertification by CERPs, all continuing education must be approved by IBLCE for Continuing Education Recognition Points (CERPs). If the education has been approved for CERPs, the certificate of completion will show the type and number of CERPs approved.

If the certificate of completion does not designate the number and type of CERPs, you will need to submit an Individual Application for CERPs. This Individual Application for CERPs must be submitted at the same time the Recertification by CERPs application is submitted. IBLCE will review the education submitted and award or deny CERPs as appropriate.

## Finding CERP Approved Education

You may find upcoming CERP approved programs on the IBLCE regional websites. The lists of programs posted on the IBLCE websites are provided as a convenience to IBCLCs and does not indicate or imply IBLCE endorsement or recommendation of any particular continuing education program or provider.

## Individual Application for CERPs

The Individual Application for CERPs can help you earn L or E-CERPs for the following activities. Please see the Guide to Individual Application for CERPs Approval for details and restrictions.

- Article/abstract/chapter in a refereed journal or edited book
- Master's thesis or doctoral dissertation
- Poster presentation
- Video for professionals
- Original hospital protocol or policy
- Clinical observation

- Attendance at an educational offering where the topic was human lactation and breastfeeding
- Presenting an educational offering
  - As the speaker, you would receive double the credit. For every 60 minutes of instruction, you as the speaker would receive 2 CERPs.

If approved, the educational activity will be awarded L, E or R-CERPs, depending upon the content.

## R-CERPs

You may document up to a maximum of 20 R-CERPs for recertification. You are NOT required to have R-CERPs. R-CERPs are awarded to continuing education that is related to the practice of a lactation consultant. Some examples of courses that are eligible for R CERPs are:

- General anatomy
- Infant growth and development
- Research methods and statistics
- Cultural differences in health practices
- Postpartum depression
- Counseling or communications skills
- Adult education principles
- Infant Massage Practices
- Complementary therapies (overview sessions only)

Over a five year period, you may earn up to a total of 6 R-CERPs for completing one or more of the following courses. There is no need for you to submit an Individual Application for CERPs in order to receive credit for these courses.

- CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation)
- NRP (Neonatal Resuscitation Program)
- PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support)
- ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support)
- S.T.A.B.L.E (Sugar & safe care, Temperature, Airway, Blood pressure, Lab work, Emotional support)

You will receive 3 R CERPs for each certification card up to a maximum of 6 R-CERPs. If you were an instructor for one of these courses, you will receive 6 R CERPs for teaching the course.

**Please Note:** IBLCE allows a maximum of 6 R-CERPs per five year period for these courses, regardless of how many certification cards you hold. To document completion of these courses, simply send a copy of the front and back of your card along with your Recertification by CERPs application.

## Documentation of CERPs

List the programs you have attended on your application, preferably in chronological order. You must submit copies of your certificates with your application. IBLCE **does not** maintain records of participants in CERP approved education programs. If you have lost or misplaced your certificate of completion, you must contact the education provider.

## Application Audit

As part of IBLCE's quality control procedures, all applications are subject to audit. Applications chosen for audit are reviewed in greater detail to verify the accuracy of information provided and you will need to submit copies of your attendance certificates for the CERPs you have listed on your application. IBCLCs whose applications are chosen for audit will receive an Audit Notification by email. This Audit Notification will describe the documentation that is required and the IBCLC will be given a deadline for submission of the documentation. IBCLCs who fail to provide the required documentation by the deadline given in the Audit Notification will be subject to additional fees and recertification may be denied.