



Frequently Asked Questions

Who Should Participate?

NSCA's EST-L2™ certification program is designed for professionals with one to three years of industry experience whose primary occupation is the commercial design and/or integration, installation and field maintenance/service of: cabling, infrastructure, and/or products that transport voice, video, audio and data signals; products that control signals; and products that use signals to control mechanical and electrical apparatus.

How to locate a testing center? [Click here](#) to download a list of testing centers.

Do you have a listing of the approved review materials?

Title	Author	Publisher	Year
• A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge 3rd Edition	Project Management Institute	Project Management Institute	2004
• Advanced Electrical Topics 20512	Wheels of Learning	Prentice Hall	2002
• Audio Systems Technology Level 1	Garter, Larry	Prompt	1998
• Construction Project Administration	Fisk, Edward	Wiley	1982
• http://www.osha.gov	Website	N/A	2008
• NCCER Level 1	NCCER	NCCER	2004
• NCCER Level 2	NCCER	NCCER	2004
• NCCER Level 3	NCCER	NCCER	2004
• NFPA 70 National Electrical Code	NFPA	NFPA	2008
• NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code	NFPA	NFPA	2007
• NTC Blue Book	National Training Center	National Training Center	2005
• Sound System Engineering	Davis, Don	Focal Press	2006
• Telecommunications Cabling Installation	BICSI Steering Committee 200	McGraw-Hill	2001
• Yamaha Sound Reinforcement Handbook	Davis, Gary and Jones, Ralph	Hal Leonard	1989

*****Important: This reference list should only be used as a starting point for candidates; some questions on the exam may come from sources other than what is listed below.**

What information is covered on the exam? For information, [click here](#).

I started the C-EST® certification but did not pass both parts of the exam, what are my options now? Previous certification candidates must resubmit a new EST-L2 application and take the updated exam, which consists of a written exam.

I have a C-EST certification with NSCA – what does that mean now? *C-EST is now named EST-L2+. This designation means you have successfully completed a written knowledge exam in addition to a hands on performance verification. The renewal requirements for your certification remain the same as before. Feel free to reference our updated [policy handbook](#) for further explanation.*

Why get certified? *Obtaining an industry certification can help secure your business for the long term. Certificate holders come away with an expanded skill set and knowledge of industry standards and requirements. That means jobs are more likely to be done right, which reflects positively on the tech, the company and anyone else associated with the project. NSCA's industry-specific certification helps ensure high-quality work by promoting electronic systems best practices. These exclusive designations enable you to train and motivate your staff, differentiate yourself from the competition, or prove that you have technicians with knowledge and skills for the job.*

What is the difference between the EST-L2 Review and the Technician Training Series? Do they both help me to prepare for the certification?

The EST-L2 on-line review *is an eight-hour review course designed to help installers and technicians grow in professional competence and confidence as they prepare to test for the EST-L2 exam. With an instructor's guidance, this course is designed to help participants recall the key points they have already studied in prior courses. It highlights the major issues participants are expected to know, and it helps them evaluate their readiness for the certification exam. At the conclusion of this course, participants should be able to:*

- *Explain what is involved in a project startup, e.g., code requirements, project documents and safety practices.*
- *Describe how to perform a rough-in installation involving wall and ceiling boxes, wire and cable, and conduit with supporting hardware.*
- *Outline techniques for installing terminations and components, including structured cabling and component testing.*
- *Identify how to do a project closeout with system activation, troubleshooting and the completion of documentation.*
- *Confidently approach the EST-L2 certification exam with a fresh and professional review of key EST topics.*

Technician Training Series *is a nine month training program, which includes two components: instructor-led online teaching and local hands-on instruction provides the best teaching format for students. Key components to the Internet-based classroom include: streaming audio/video presentations, slide presentations, a discussion board, quizzes and tests, and office hours. More complex topics are delivered face-to-face by an [approved facilitator](#) at your site.*

Level 1 *introduces new installers to the low-voltage industry, providing relevant experience and a good foundation to build upon. Have the perfect job candidate but they lack experience? Send them to Level 1 Training to get up-to-speed on a career that will benefit you both. This level is appropriate preparation for NSCA's EST-L2 exam or other industry certifications.*

Level 2 *builds on the foundation set in Level 1 and continues to train the employee in fundamentals or is an appropriate entry point for the installer/tech who already has two to four years of experience. This level is appropriate for those working toward the EST-L2 or more advanced certifications still in development.*

[Level 3](#) rounds out the systems knowledge for those in the EST Training, or is a good entry point for the installer who already has more than four years of experience but would like to sit for the EST-L2 or more advanced certifications still in development.

What is an assessment, why is one needed? *The assessment allows exam candidates to better determine the course of study needed to prepare for a certification exam. The assessment highlights the candidate's current strengths and weaknesses through a score report that's broken down by exam domain (the exam sections that are presented in the outline of exam content).*

How much is the EST-L2 assessment? \$49.00

How do I register for the assessment?

- The NSCA candidate will logon to www.isoqualitytest.com.
- If you receive a Security Alert, click "Yes."
- Select "Exam Registration."
- Choose NSCA from Organization drop down.
- Choose EST L-2 Assessment from exam drop down menu. Click "Next."
- The candidate will not have a User ID or Password, so they will click on Register.
- The candidate will be prompted to enter their Candidate Profile examination. An email address is highly recommended. Click "Next."
- The candidate will enter their credit card information.
- Assessment exam begins.

Can I use education credits towards the cost of assessments? No

What are the possible recommendations that come from the assessments? *Scores below 23 require additional study and review, contact the NSCA for more information on avenues you may want to pursue to prepare for testing. Scores above 23 indicate a readiness to test; however, further review and preparation in all domain areas that show a weakness are encouraged.*

Can I purchase the materials to review for the exam without taking the review? *Yes, you may use self study to review for the exam. See the list of approved review materials for more information.*

Is the review offered on-line? Yes.

How long is the exam? 125 questions; the candidate has up to 3 hours to complete.

How is it administered? *There are two different ways: candidates can take advantage of our testing at one of the many [authorized testing centers](#) around the country in a computer based environment. The other option is for the candidate test at a NSCA event, which will typically offer paper/pencil delivery.*

Is there a "hands-on" portion of this exam? *Not at this time.*

How long will it take to get my results? *Candidates taking the exam at an authorized testing center in a computer based environment will receive a preliminary pass or fail status. All candidates will receive written notification of exam results within 30 business days of taking the exams.*

How long is my certification good for? 3 years from the date the certificate is issued.

What do I have to do to maintain the certification? *Certificate holders must renew their certifications every three years. Recertification consists of a \$125 fee and evidence that you have continued your education by receiving an additional 24 Learning Units (LUs) of classroom or*

hands-on instruction. These additional hours are not limited to NSCA University courses — they may be earned through any industry education programs or manufacturer training. See a list of approved courses available through [NSCA University's Partner Providers](#).

What is a Learning Unit? *Learning Units (LUs) track student progress toward continuing education requirements.*

I have successfully completed the EST Level I training – should I be prepared to sit for the certification at this point? *The EST-L2 assessment can help determine your readiness to test; however most Level 1 training graduates are likely best prepared to take the ESPA exam, [click here](#) to find out more).*

Can my education credits be used towards the review training? *NSCA Education Credits may be used for up to 50% of the cost of the course.*

Can my education credits be used towards the certification exam? *No.*

What is the cost of the assessment, review and exam?

NSCA EST-L2 Assessment:	\$49	
NSCA EST-L2 Review Course:	\$209 (Member price)	\$259 (Non-member price)
NSCA EST-L2 Exam:	\$249	

I am enrolled in the Certificate of Completion Program (CCP) – does the review training count towards my enrollment in CCP? *No.*

What happens if I do not successfully pass the exam? Is there a period that I must wait before re-testing? *Any candidate who is unsuccessful on an examination may retake the examination up to 2 attempts per calendar year, with re-submission of the application Parts I & II and payment of the exam fee. Candidates must wait at least 90 days before retaking the exam.*

What other requirements are there for obtaining the certification besides passing the exam? *All candidates must meet the following:*

- *EST-L2 candidates must pay the application fee.*
- *Completion of specified training and work experience.*
- *Agree to adhere to EST-L2 professional conduct policies and procedures.*
- *Receipt of two third-party endorsements.*
- *Maintain professional development activities.*

If you have additional questions, please contact NSCA at 800.446.6722 or education@nsca.org.