



Certified Surgical Cleaning Technician FAQs

Is this a certification program or a certificate program?

CSCT is a new **certification program** offered by the Association for the Healthcare Environment (AHE).

What is the purpose? Why is it being offered?

The intense, fast-paced OR environment is perhaps the most critical area in a healthcare setting. And operating rooms are among the most infection-sensitive environments in a healthcare facility.

Surgical cleaning technicians play an essential role in creating and maintaining a healthy environment and in fighting infectious diseases; they are *key members* of the OR team, helping to ensure the surgical environment is properly cleaned, disinfected and safe for patients *and* staff.

This certification program trains and certifies surgical cleaning technicians, ensuring they are knowledgeable, highly skilled and fully prepared for their role in the healthcare environment.

What kind of training program is it?

The program is a Train-the-Trainer (T3) Program. Healthcare facilities send members of their team to a T3 workshop to become *designated* trainers of the program, called T-CSCTs (Trainer of the Certified Surgical Cleaning Technician Program).

Once these T-CSCTs are trained themselves, they then can train environmental services technicians, operating room cleaning technicians, surgical cleaning technicians and others who perform cleaning and disinfection services in the OR.

Note that trainers of the CSCT program are not certified—they are designated trainers. This means they do not take the CSCT exam.

What topics are covered in the training?

The CSCT is a 16-hour training program, culminating in an exam for technicians. The CSCT curriculum covers five core domains:

- Infection Prevention
- Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Impacts and Outcomes

T-CSCTs can conduct the training over the course of 2 full days or can break up the curriculum and train in 2-hour increments over the course of a week or several weeks.

Who can be certified?

- Surgical cleaning technicians; ambulatory surgical cleaning technicians
- OR technicians
- Environmental services technicians
- Supervisors
- Leads

Once there is a T-CSCT on board at a facility, he or she will identify technicians for the program. Technicians will be trained by the T-CSCT at their facilities.

What is the eligibility criteria?

- Have a minimum of 6 months healthcare environmental services cleaning experience in direct patient care, or
- Have a minimum of 6 months cleaning experience in the OR suite or procedure rooms, or
- Have a minimum of one year experience in healthcare cleaning in areas other than in direct patient care

and

- Candidates must be able to read and write in English*

**The CSCT curriculum is written at or above the junior high reading level but is suitable for employees with additional education*

What kinds of healthcare facilities can participate?

Acute care hospitals, critical access hospitals, outpatient surgery clinics and centers, ambulatory surgical centers, healthcare systems, and other facilities should participate. All healthcare facilities where procedures are done are encouraged to get trainers designated and technicians trained and certified.

How long is the certification cycle?

The certification cycle is three years. CSCTs can renew their certification by taking 15 hours of continuing education credits during those three years. They can also renew by retesting, if desired.

What are the costs?

For the train-the-trainer workshop:

Registration Type	Registration Includes:	Registration Fee
<p>T-CSCT Candidate (PAM and ALLY)</p> <p>(Facility Employee): Available to an individual employed in a health care facility (i.e. an organization that provides direct patient care such as an acute care hospital, long term care, ambulatory care center, etc.) with the majority of time spent directing environmental services operations.</p>	<p>facilitator guide, participant manual, slide deck, toolkit, and certificate</p>	<p>AHE Member: \$950</p> <p>Non-member: \$1,150</p>
<p>T-CSCT Candidate (ASC)</p> <p>(Consultant/Independent Contractor and Suppliers): Available to an individual who is employed by a company or organization other than a healthcare facility that may provide PAM members with professional, technical, consulting services and/or products.</p>	<p><i>facilitator guide, participant manual, toolkit, slide deck and certificate</i></p>	<p>AHE member: \$2,000</p> <p>Non-member: \$2,500</p>
<p>CSCT Candidate (Surgical Cleaning Technicians)</p>	<p><i>participant manual, certificate, and pin</i></p>	<p>\$129</p>