

Certification: LLSSA Conducts Locksmith Certification Testing.



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Related Industry

The Associated Locksmiths of America (ALOA) has developed and oversees the Proficiency Registry Program (PRP). PRP is a system of testing that evaluates a wide variety of Locksmith knowledge. Upon successful completion of various exams, ALOA grants nationally recognized designations that correspond to the levels of the exam system passed.

In the State of Louisiana, our licensing provides that locksmith applicants must demonstrate competency in order to acquire licensing. One method of demonstrating competency is successfully passing the requisite exams to acquire the Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL) designation of the PRP program.

This allowance can be very helpful and cost effective for those seeking state licensure as a locksmith, however the exam(s) can be very challenging. To make matters more complicated, the exam has not frequently been proctored in the state. The most common course of action was to schedule a test sitting in Dallas, TX at the ALOA HQ. For some locksmith candidates in the Northwestern part of the state, this was not too bad but for the remainder of the state

this could mean an expensive overnight trip. The exam itself can take up to 4 hours to complete!

Through joint coordination between LLSSA and ALOA, the exam will now be offered with much greater frequency right here in Louisiana at the LLSSA training office in Lafayette. The exam dates will be included in all Event Schedules sent by LLSSA and included in the newsletter.

How to participate: Very simple, contact LLSSA and request a sitting for the next exam. You will be notified of the date of the next exam. You will be given and need to return the sitting form. For those seeking initial certification you will mostly commonly need the Mandatory categories and 2 Electives. For any subsequent exams, you can take a number of electives which is regulated by ALOA. Further details on ongoing certification testing requirements and procedures are detailed at www.aloa.org/education.

Be Prepared: The CRL is not a 'gimmie', it will require dedicated preparation and study to pass the exam. ALOA offers a PRP Resource Guide (member price \$20.00) that provides in depth information about the categories and references for study. However, the guide does reference a LARGE variety of materials to reference. It does contain a copy of the ALOA locksmith glossary from which many questions are taken from.

Certification should NOT end at licensing! The PRP testing system provides novice and experienced locksmiths alike an excellent tool to measure their current knowledge level

in a variety of specialties. Feedback is given on your performance on the exams to help you identify what areas you should pursue for further study.

ALOA provides the following details that can help you understand the PRP testing system:

Why Should I be certified?

- To demonstrate your advanced knowledge as a locksmith/safe technician
- To gain instant professional credibility
- To advance your career
- To stand head and shoulders above the competition
- To increase your earnings potential

Designations:

Registered Locksmith (RL)
Certified Automotive Locksmith (CAL) (*Note: This certification is NOT valid for state licensing in Louisiana.)
Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL)
Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL)
Certified Master Locksmith (CML)

GENERAL LOCKSMITH CERTIFICATION

Registered Locksmith (RL):

The designation for Registered Locksmith is – RL An Individual who is an RL was “grand fathered” into the program at it’s inception in 1985/6 (this grandfather program is no longer available); or has completed the ALOA Five or Six-Day Basic Locksmithing course and passed the exam at the end of the course.

Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL)

The first level of locksmith certification is Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL). A Certified Registered Locksmith has passed the ten mandatory categories, as well as at least two specialized electives of his choice. A CRL has a good working knowledge of general locksmithing.

Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL)

The second level of locksmith certification is Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL). A Certified Professional Locksmith has earned the CRL designation and has successfully in an additional twelve elective categories. A CPL has an advanced knowledge of general locksmithing and of many specialized areas.

Certified Master Locksmith (CML).

A Certified Master Locksmith has reached the highest level of ALOA's Proficiency Registration Program and has successfully demonstrated proficiency in ninety percent of the available categories of the Proficiency Registration Program. A CML has advanced knowledge of most areas of locksmithing and electronic security.

All of the examinations for certification in the Proficiency Registration Program are written examinations which currently consist of thirty-six categories, ten of which are mandatory.

The mandatory exam categories are

- Codes and Code Equipment
- Cylinder Servicing
- Key Blank Identification
- Key Duplication
- Key Impressioning

- Professional Lock Opening Techniques
- Lockset Functions
- Lockset Servicing
- Basic Master Keying
- Cabinet, Furniture and Mailbox Locks
- L-07 Life Safety Codes
- L-08 High Security Cylinder Servicing
- L-11 Special Application Cylinder Servicing
- L-12 Tubular Key Cylinder Servicing
- L-13 Basic Electricity
- L-16 Exit Hardware and Exit Alarms
- L-20 Keyless Mechanical Locks
- L-21 Lever Tumbler/Non-Safe Deposit Locks
- L-22 Motorcycle Locks
- L-24 Safe Combination Locks
- L-25 Safe Deposit Locks
- L-26 Time Locks
- L-28 Lockset Installation
- L-31 Advanced Master Keying
- L-32 Safe Installation
- L-33 Safe Opening and Servicing
- L-38 Small Format Interchangeable Core
- L-39 Large Format Interchangeable Core
- L-40 Electromechanical Access Control

The mandatory categories are combined into one test booklet containing 250 questions and must be passed with a cumulative score of 70%.

The remaining twenty-six categories are elective exams that may be selected according to each locksmith's field of specialization or expanding knowledge. This number will vary as technology changes. Each elective contains between twenty-five and forty questions, depending on the subject covered.

The elective exam categories are:

- L-03 Domestic Automotive
- L-04 Foreign Automotive
- L-05 Door Closers

- L-41 Related Door Hardware
- L-42 Alarms
- L-43 Detention Locking Systems

The elective categories are in separate booklets and the passing score for each elective is 70%.

To achieve the Certified Automotive Locksmith certification (CAL), a passing grade of (70%) is required on the 300 question automotive locksmithing exam.

To achieve the first level of general locksmith certification, Certified Registered Locksmith, a passing grade (70 %+) is required on the mandatory section and any two selected electives.

To achieve the intermediate level of certification, Certified Professional Locksmith, a passing grade (70 %+) is required on each of any twelve additional selected electives.

To achieve the highest level of certification, Certified Master Locksmith, a passing grade (70 %+) is required on 90% of the total number of categories available which currently is each of any nine of the remaining electives.

PRP/STPRP LEVEL SUMMARY

Mandatory Categories + 2 Electives CRL
 CRL + 12 Electives CPL
 CPL + 9 Remaining Electives CML
 CPS Mandatory exam CPS
 CPS Mandatory exam + CMST exam CMST

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