



**International Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning Association
Membership & Certification
Policies and Procedures
*Amended as of August 27, 2026***

I. Membership

1. All members in IKECA must agree to abide by all governing documents of IKECA, including the Bylaws, Standards and Practices, and Policies & Procedures upon submitting a membership application.
2. Active Members who use sub-contractors may not infer nor imply IKECA membership or IKECA certification for any work performed by non-IKECA members.
3. Membership is renewable on an annual basis:
 - a) Annual Membership dues are assessed on January 1st of each year.
 - b) Payment of annual membership dues must be received at IKECA Headquarters no later than March 1 or any other deadline approved by the Board of Directors and published to members.
 - c) Members who are delinquent in payment of their membership renewal after March 1, or the published deadline, will be marked as pending and will be dropped from membership prior to the next renewal period, and forfeit all rights and privileges including the use of the IKECA logo.
4. Membership Eligibility Requirement Compliance:
 - a) Any Active North American or Introductory Member which fails to update the required insurance information and/or maintain the required active qualifying IKECA credential in good standing by March 1st shall be **SUSPENDED** for up to ninety (90) days or until appropriate requirements are updated.
 - b) During this time, the member shall be removed from the IKECA member directory.
 - c) If, at the end of ninety (90) days, the member has not provided the required insurance documentation, or has failed to obtain an active, qualifying IKECA credential in good standing, membership shall be terminated and all privileges of membership will be revoked, including the use of the IKECA logo.

II. Membership Classifications and Requirements

1. Active North American Members

- a) Defined as those companies that provide cleaning services of kitchen exhaust systems located in North America*.
- b) Annual dues will be \$995.00 USD per year and pro-rated in the second year of membership for members who join after June 1st.
- c) Active North American Members are authorized to use the IKECA logo on promotional and marketing materials.
- d) Active North American Members receive a listing in the online IKECA membership directory.
- e) In order to maintain Membership Eligibility, Active North American Members are required to provide proof of:
 - i. A minimum of \$2,000,000 in Liability and Completed Operations insurance coverage.
 - ii. Workers' Compensation coverage, unless current, written documentation is provided by applicant proving that the applicant is not required to carry or maintain Workers' Compensation coverage.
 - iii. Where applicable – all members shall notify insurers to add IKECA to any/all Notices of Cancellation.
 - iv. Members are required to update their insurance information with IKECA as a certificate holder.
- f) Active North American Members are required to maintain at least one CECS or CESI certified employee.
 - i. IKECA will also accept IKECA-issued BCCS™ or IKECA-issued BCSI™ for prospective Members under jurisdiction of Boston, MA.
- g) If the applicant for Membership does not currently employ an individual holding an active IKECA qualifying credential, the applicant will be granted ninety (90) days from the date of application to meet the requirement. During this 90-day period, the applicant may register one or more candidates for IKECA designation/ certification and receive any applicable member discount on the exam fee(s).
- h) Active North American Members are required to pay annual membership dues/assessments as prescribed by the IKECA Board of Directors (See Section IV).
- i) Active North American Members have member voting privileges.

**North America includes the United States and its territories, Canada, and Mexico. All other countries in North America are eligible for Active International Membership. IKECA will accept payments in Canadian Dollars at par exchange from IKECA Members based in Canada only for the payment of annual membership dues and recertification fees. Such payments must be made in the form of written check. When remitting checks, be sure to include a copy of the related IKECA invoice and mail to: IKECA Headquarters, 2331 Rock Spring Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050.*

2. Active International Members

- a) Defined as those companies that provide cleaning services of kitchen exhaust systems located outside of North America.
- b) Annual dues will be \$995.00 USD per year and pro-rated in the second year of membership for members who join after June 1st.
- c) Active International Members are authorized to use the IKECA logo on promotional and marketing materials.
- d) Active International Members receive a listing in the online IKECA membership directory.
- e) Active International Members are required to pay annual membership dues/assessments as prescribed by the IKECA Board of Directors (See Section IX).
- f) Active International Members are exempt from certification and insurance requirements.
- g) Active International Members have member voting privileges.

3. Associate Members

- a) Defined as companies that manufacture equipment or supplies or provide ancillary services to the kitchen exhaust cleaning industry.
- b) Annual dues will be \$995.00 USD per year and pro-rated in the second year of membership for members who join after June 1st.
- c) Associate Members are required to pay annual membership dues as prescribed by the IKECA Board of Directors (See Section IX).
- d) Associate Members are authorized to use the IKECA logo on promotional and marketing materials.
- e) Associate Members receive a listing in the online IKECA membership directory.
- f) Associate Members are exempt from certification and insurance requirements.
- g) Associate Members do not have member voting privileges, with the exception of voting for the Associate Member of the IKECA Board of Directors.

4. Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) Members

- a) Defined as publicly funded officials with authority to set and regulate local standards on kitchen exhaust cleaning and inspection.
- b) Annual dues will be \$50.00 USD per year and pro-rated in the second year of membership for members who join after June 1st.
- c) AHJ Members shall be listed in the online IKECA membership directory.
- d) AHJ Members are exempt from certification and insurance requirements.
- e) AHJ Members do not have member voting privileges.

5. Restaurant Owners and Facility Management Members

- a) Defined as for-profit entities comprised of facility managers, restaurants, hospitals, universities, and other related organizations that qualify as end-users of kitchen exhaust systems.
- b) Annual dues will be \$50.00 USD per year and pro-rated in the second year of membership for members who join after June 1st.
- c) Food Service Industry Members shall have a listing in the online IKECA membership directory.
- d) Food Service Industry Members are exempt from certification and insurance requirements.
- e) Food Service Industry Members do not have voting privileges.

6. Insurance Risk Management Professionals Members

- a) Defined as for-profit entities that offer insurance to end-users of commercial exhaust systems.
- b) Annual dues will be \$50.00 USD per year and pro-rated in the second year of membership for members who join after June 1st.
- c) Risk Management Members shall have a listing in the online IKECA membership directory.
- d) Risk Management Members are exempt from certification and insurance requirements.
- e) Risk Management Members do not have voting privileges.

7. Introductory Members

- a) Defined as those companies that provide cleaning services of kitchen exhaust systems located in North America* and which do not currently, nor ever have, held an IKECA membership.
- b) Introductory Member dues will be \$575.00.00 USD and Introductory Member application fees will be \$100.00 USD.
- c) Introductory Membership is limited, as a one-year, one-time opportunity per company.
- d) In order to maintain Membership Eligibility, Introductory Members are required to provide proof of:
 - i. A minimum of \$2,000,000 in Liability and Completed Operations insurance coverage.
 - ii. Workers' Compensation coverage, unless current, written documentation is provided by applicant proving that the applicant is not required to carry or maintain Workers' Compensation coverage.
 - iii. Where applicable – all members shall notify insurers to add IKECA to any/all Notices of Cancellation.
 - iv. Members are required to update their insurance information with IKECA as a certificate holder.
 - v. Introductory Members are required to employ at least one individual that holds, at a minimum, the IKECA PECT designation. IKECA will also accept any IKECA certification, as well as the IKECA BCCS or BCSI for prospective Members under jurisdiction of Boston, MA to fulfill this requirement.
 - 1. If the applicant for Introductory Membership does not currently employ an individual holding an active IKECA qualifying credential, the applicant will be granted ninety (90) days from the date of application to meet the requirement. During this 90-day period, the applicant may register one or more candidates for IKECA designation/ certification and receive any applicable member discount on the exam fee(s)
 - vi. Once all qualifications are met, Introductory Membership will be approved based on the original application date, with a membership expiration date set for one year from the date of application.
- e) Introductory Membership is limited, as a one-year, one-time opportunity per company.
- f) Introductory Members must have at least one representative attend at least one IKECA Conference during their one-year membership.
- g) Introductory Members shall have a listing in the online IKECA membership directory.
- h) Introductory Members are not authorized to use the IKECA logo on promotional and marketing materials.
- i) Introductory Members do not have voting privileges.

8. Emeritus Membership

- a) Defined as individuals who were formerly employed by firms, corporations, partnerships, individual proprietorship and other types of business that are or were Active, AHJ, FSI, or Associate Members of the Corporation and are no longer an individual proprietor or involved with a firm or entity that is eligible to be a member in the Corporation. Individual must, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, have made a contribution to the Corporation. The Membership Committee shall accept nominations from the membership, and shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval or denial.
- b) There is no fee for this membership class; membership is provided on a complimentary basis.
- c) Emeritus Members shall have a listing in the online IKECA membership directory.
- d) Emeritus Members are exempt from certification and insurance requirements.
- e) Emeritus Members may register for and attend IKECA Annual Membership Meetings and IKECA Fall Technical Conferences at the Guest rate in effect.
- f) Emeritus Members do not have voting privileges.

III. Advertising Opportunities for Active Members

- 1. Active members in good standing may voluntarily list branch locations for an additional fee. Listings will be available in IKECA's online membership directory.
- 2. **Branch locations** are defined as satellite locations of the corporate office and are not separately incorporated. The physical address will be listed using the corporate company name.
- 3. All listings will be available for search by state.
- 4. Listing price for branch locations are \$150 each.

IV. Application Process, Fees and Compliance

1. Application fees of \$250.00 are non-refundable.
 - a) AHJs shall be exempt from any application fee requirements.
 - b) Restaurant Owners and Facility Management Members shall be exempt from any application fee requirements.
 - c) Insurance Risk Management Professionals Members shall be exempt from any application fee requirements.
2. All Active North American member applicants MUST submit the following materials:
 - a) Completed Membership Application
 - b) Application fee
 - c) Completed CECS or CESI Examination Application, including CECS or CESI examination fees.
 - d) Proofs of insurance for:
 - i. General Liability
 - ii. Workers' Compensation
 - e) Failure to meet membership eligibility requirements within 90 days from the application date will result in the forfeiture of the application fee.
 - f) Upon successfully passing either the CECS or CESI exam and submitting all required materials and fees, IKECA will inform the new member of its approved status in the form of a new member packet.
3. All Associate, Active International, AHJ, Restaurant Owner and Facility Management, and Insurance Risk Management Professionals applicants MUST submit the a completed Membership Application and are subject to all Membership fees.
4. Once all application materials are received, the application will be reviewed to ensure all requirements have been met.
5. Applicants will be notified of the application status within sixty (60) days AFTER all materials are received and certification (where required) is verified.
6. No applicant will be considered a member of the Association until all criteria are met and a determination is made and communicated.
7. To change the name of a company holding a current membership in IKECA, an initial request in writing must be submitted to IKECA Headquarters. Upon submitting the necessary documentation (name change form and updated insurance information), as well as \$25.00 USD administrative fee, the name change will be implemented.
8. Any applicant who has violated the trademark of the IKECA logo (use of the logo without current membership), for which there was an actual finding, may be prevented from joining for a period of two (2) years past the date of the finding.
9. Members who use sub-contractors may not infer IKECA membership or IKECA certification for any work performed by non-IKECA members.

V. Certification and Designation

1. IKECA provides certification and designation programs for interested individuals.
2. IKECA will record personal contact information (personal email address, home address) from certification candidates and certification holders so that communications and renewal reminders may reach the individual directly.
3. The individual may designate an employer of record. When designated, employer may receive certification notifications.
4. IKECA certification is awarded to and maintained by the individual. Changes of employment do not have any bearing on an individual's certification status.
5. Certifications and Designations are renewable as noted below. Failure to renew within ninety (90) days of June 1st may result in the revocation of the Certification or Designation.
6. Subject matter experts who are invited to participate in IKECA credentialing examination development activities, if not already credentialed, will not automatically earn the credential(s) for the examination development activities in which they participated. SMEs may, however, sit for the examination(s) of their choosing, under the same conditions as all other certification candidates.

VI. Certification and Designation Classifications

1. Certified Exhaust Cleaning Specialist (CECS)

- i. Certification is awarded to and certificate issued in the name of the successful candidate..
- a) The CECS examination is available through two methods:
 - i. The examination is administered online, in the presence of a live, remote proctor (requires computer, webcam and audio connection).
 - ii. The examination is administered at pre-approved testing centers which provide the necessary equipment to take the online exam in the presence of an onsite proctor.
- b) Exam applications must be accompanied by appropriate fees; member rates will prevail for any certification application submitted with a membership application and appropriate fees. Certification fees are not transferable nor refundable.
- c) Successful CECS candidates will be issued a certificate valid for a period of one (1) year.
- d) CECS certification is renewable every year on June 1st. Those who have met the requisite continuing education units (CEUs) required must submit a renewal application with the renewal fee.
- e) Maintaining an active certification in good standing and maintaining current contact information with IKECA, are the responsibly of the certified individual.

2. Certified Exhaust Cleaning Technician (CECT)

- a) Certification as a CECT is a voluntary certification program offered by IKECA.
- b) Certification is awarded to, and certificate issued in the name of, the successful candidate.
- c) The CECT examination is available through two methods:
 - i. The examination is administered online, in the presence of a live, remote proctor (requires computer, webcam and audio connection).
 - ii. The examination is administered at pre-approved testing centers which provide the necessary equipment to take the online exam in the presence of an onsite proctor.
- d) Exam applications must be accompanied by appropriate fees; member rates will prevail for any certification application submitted with a membership application and appropriate fees. Certification fees are not transferable nor refundable.
- e) Candidates who pass the CECT examination will be issued a certificate valid for a period of two (2) years.
- f) CECT certification is renewable every other year on June 1st. Those who have met the requisite continuing education units (CEUs) required must submit a renewal application with the renewal fee.
- g) Maintaining an active certification in good standing and maintaining current contact information with IKECA, are the responsibly of the certified individual.

3. Certified Exhaust System Inspector (CESI)

- a) Certification as a CESI is a voluntary certification program offered by IKECA.
- i) Certification is awarded to and certificate issued in the name of the successful candidate.
- b) The CESI examination is available through two methods:
 - i. The examination is administered online, in the presence of a live, remote proctor (requires computer, webcam and audio connection).
 - ii. The examination is administered at pre-approved testing centers which provide the necessary equipment to take the online exam in the presence of an onsite proctor.
- c) Exam applications must be accompanied by appropriate fees. Certification fees are not transferable nor refundable.
- d) A score of 75% or better on the examination is considered passing for CESI certification.
- e) Candidates who pass the CESI examination will be issued a certificate valid for a period of two (2) years.
- f) CESI certification is renewable every other year on June 1st. Those who have met the requisite continuing education units (CEUs) required must submit a renewal application with the renewal fee.
- g) Maintaining an active certification in good standing and maintaining current contact information with IKECA, are the responsibly of the certified individual.

4. Professional Exhaust Cleaning Technician (PECT)

- a) Designation as a Professional Exhaust Cleaning Technician (PECT) is a voluntary program offered by IKECA to employees of IKECA member companies only.
- b) The PECT designation is awarded in the name of the successful candidate. Sponsoring member company will appear on the designation certificate.
- c) The PECT designation is not a certification, but a designation awarded to technicians.

- d) Promotion of PECT as a certification is strictly prohibited.
- e) Candidates who pass the PECT examination are granted the PECT designation and issued a certificate valid for a period of three (3) years.
- f) PECT designation is renewable every three (3) years on June 1st, requiring payment of the renewal fee.
- g) Maintaining an active designation is the responsibility of the individual and sponsoring member company.
- h) Should the sponsoring member company fail to maintain IKECA membership in good standing or the designated individual leave their employ, PECT designation will be forfeited. The individual may be sponsored for the PECT designation program by subsequent employer(s).

VII. Complaint and Appeal Procedures

1. A complaint lodged against a member of IKECA must be filed in writing and directed to IKECA Headquarters.
2. Only complaints filed by customers and AHJs will be considered. Complaints by other members are not subject to investigation by IKECA.
3. Upon receipt of the complaint, the member against whom the complaint was lodged shall be promptly notified of its receipt by IKECA and provided a copy of the complaint. The member shall have ten (10) days from the date of the receipt of the complaint in which to respond in writing to IKECA Headquarters with any comments regarding the complaint.
4. The complaint and member's response will be referred to the Ethics Committee and is subject to review by the IKECA Board of Directors.
5. If the member is found to be at fault, they will be given an opportunity to correct the situation. Should the member at fault be unable or unwilling to resolve the problem for the customer, the member is subject to disciplinary action by the IKECA Board of Directors, including probation or expulsion from membership.
6. Any decisions by the IKECA Board of Directors regarding disciplinary action against a member may be appealed by the member. Appeals must be filed in writing and directed to IKECA Headquarters and will be addressed at the next Board of Directors meeting. The member may be invited to a board meeting to present his/her case. Should the issue be of a critical time-sensitive nature, the Board of Directors may elect to hold a special meeting to review the situation.
7. Following a member's appeal, the Board of Directors shall render an opinion on the matter, within a reasonable period of time, which shall be final and binding.
8. If a member fails to comply with the directives issued by the Board of Directors in regard to a complaint, they are subject to dismissal from IKECA membership.

VIII. Disciplinary Action

1. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, determine a form of disciplinary action to be taken against a member for just cause:
 - a) This would include any conduct or act which violates the rules and regulations of IKECA or is deemed to have an adverse effect on the association.
 - b) Disciplinary action may be in the form of a warning, fine or assessment, probation, or expulsion from membership.
 - c) The degree of discipline imposed by the Board of Directors shall depend on the severity of the infraction and the past record of the member, and shall be in addition to any corrective measures issued by the Board.
2. Probation may be imposed upon a member found to be at fault, for a period of time determined by the IKECA Board of Directors, not to exceed a period of two (2) years whenever an IKECA directed inspection is to take place.
3. If the complaint filed by a customer involves compliance with any applicable codes/ standards by an IKECA member company and the alleged offender is unwilling or unable to satisfy the customer's complaint then the following action is to commence:
 - a) The member company in question will be placed on probation for a period of (twelve) 12 months from the date IKECA's Board of Directors elects to place said company on probation.
 - b) The member company in question shall provide to IKECA Headquarters a consecutive numerical listing of all invoices or work orders completed within the previous two weeks of each IKECA inspection for each location cited in the initial complaint:
 - i. The IKECA board will designate a CESI from a member company to act as an onsite inspector.
 - ii. The designated inspector shall belong to an Active Member company located no less than a 500 radius from the probatory member and/or outside of the probatory member's service area; and that said inspector shall sign a two-year geographical non-compete agreement and shall send a copy of this agreement to be housed at IKECA Headquarters.
 - iii. The designated inspector will be responsible for performing three unannounced job site inspections.
 - iv. The inspector will follow such protocols and procedures developed by the IKECA Ethics Committee to

include, but not be limited to:

1. Photo documentation of all sites in question with proper time dating and documentation procedures.
2. Completion of an inspection report for each job site in question:
 - a) These findings will be forwarded to the IKECA Ethics Committee Chair for review.
 - b) The Chair shall report his/her findings to the Board of Directors for review with a recommendation on how to proceed.
- iv. If the Board of Directors feel the Ethics Committee's findings show the offending members company is qualified to clean to applicable codes/standards than said company shall be reinstated to full IKECA member status.
- v. If the Board of Directors feels said member is unable or unwilling to clean kitchen exhaust systems to applicable codes/standards than said member shall be terminated from IKECA membership. At that time, certifications of involved parties may be revoked.
- vi. Former members who have been removed from membership for this violation of IKECA membership shall be allowed to rejoin IKECA through normal enrollment procedure after a period of two (2) years.
4. Members on probation will be required to:
 - a) Submit monthly job reports to IKECA Headquarters, listing the name and location of the job, project size, and contact information for the owner, or project manager.
 - b) Monthly reports will be due at IKECA Headquarters no later than the 15th of the following month.
 - c) During a member's probationary period, the IKECA Board of Directors may select any project performed by the probationary member for inspection by an official representative of IKECA.
5. If a member fails to comply with the directives issued by the Board of Directors in regard to any form of disciplinary action, membership is subject to termination.
6. If membership is terminated for any reason, membership certificates must be returned to IKECA Headquarters within fifteen (15) days of the date their membership was terminated. Use of the federally trademarked IKECA logo shall be unauthorized, any marketing and promotional collateral, websites, business cards, etc. and inspection and/or hood stickers with the IKECA logo must be discontinued for use immediately.

IX. Reinstatement of Membership

1. Membership terminated for non-renewal will require a new application in order to re-join the association; an application for membership, the application fee and full membership fees, as well and re-taking the required certification examination (if applicable, only if certification has lapsed) must be submitted.
2. Membership terminated by the IKECA Board of Directors for misconduct or failure to abide by IKECA's Standards and Practices shall be required to wait a period of at least one (1) year before re-applying for membership.
 - a) The company will be required to submit adequate proof that it is able to fully perform work in accordance with industry codes and guidelines and will abide by the IKECA Standards and Practices.
3. Reacceptance as a Member of IKECA may also include a probationary period as a condition of membership.

X. Annual Dues and Invoicing

1. All Member companies will be invoiced annually according to the dues structure outlined in Section II.
2. Members who join after January are subject to payment of the full membership fees; membership is prorated in the second year of membership based on the join date.
3. An invoice shall be issued to member companies beginning in November for the following year's dues; monthly reminders will be sent to the key contact.
4. Member companies who fail to pay dues invoices in full by MARCH 1 (or other date as published and approved by the board) will be assessed a \$150 late fee for payments received between MARCH 1 and JUNE 1, when the following year's dues invoicing takes place.

XI. Regional Initiatives

1. IKECA will, as an organization, make every effort to reach out and provide education and guidance to municipalities who request it. In the event that an IKECA member or members are located in or near any such municipalities, and the municipality requests IKECA's assistance in developing regulations or legislation with regards to the commercial kitchen exhaust cleaning industry, the following guidelines will apply:

- a) IKECA Management Team will notify the IKECA Board of Directors of any such inquiry.
 - b) IKECA Management Team will facilitate the process between the municipality and the designated volunteer leader to develop a program that meets their individual needs.
2. IKECA understands that there is an inherent conflict of interest to involve local members on regulatory matters that impact their businesses and will act at all times for the interests of the entire membership and to improve the industry. No member will have undue influence on the process and all members agree to allow IKECA to act on their behalf in such instances, regardless of previous efforts with any municipality or AHJ.