



National Society of Professional Surveyors

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November 2, 2022

Subject: Attention: Updates to the NSPS-THSOA Certification

Good day,

The FIG/IHO/ICA International Board of Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) has officially recognized the NSPS-THSOA U.S. Hydrographer Certification Scheme based on changes that went into effect earlier this year. The NSPS-THSOA Hydrographer Certification is now one of four international schemes recognized by the IBSC, others include programs in Canada, Europe, and Australasia.

The NSPS-THSOA Hydrographer Certification Scheme now provides for differing levels of certification for U.S. hydrographers. The levels are structured to denote a range of expertise and qualifications of individuals to support the varying levels of requirements of federal, state, local, and private industry surveys. We have two levels of hydrographers: Certified Master Hydrographer (Level 1) and Certified Hydrographer (Level 2).

Those who were a certified hydrographer before April 1st, 2022, and have an Active status on the NSPS website, will be rolled into the Level 2 certification program.

Hydrographers that were certified before April 1st, 2022 also qualify for a Savings (Grandfather) Clause which allows individuals to apply to become a Certified Master Hydrographer. The Application shall include detailed curriculum vitae (CV) to include the management of complex hydrographic projects, academic transcripts and technical training certificates, and the Logbook of hydrographic experiences. **Applications are due prior to the two-year grace period from the start of the program which is April 1st, 2024.**

Certified Hydrographers who have let their membership expire will be allowed a one-time opportunity to renew their certification regardless of the number of years that the certification has been expired. This will require payment of the \$100 renewal fee for 2023-2024 and all back renewal fees at a rate of \$15 per year from the time membership expired through December 31, 2022. Currently there are a large number of Inactive certifications. If you would like to renew an expired certification to Active status, or unsure if your status is Active, please contact Trish Milburn at 240-439-4615, ext. 105.

Regardless of the certification level, to retain your Certified Hydrographer credentials, individuals must attain 30 Professional Development Hours (PDH) every two years and pay a \$100 recertification fee. **PDH and recertification fees are due April 1st, 2024.**

To learn more about the new NSPS-THSOA Certification please visit our [website](#).

Respectfully,

Jonathan L. Dasler, PE, PLS, CH
Chair, Hydrographer Certification Board