

Professional Certification – Asset Management

November 2021

Description: This topic discusses professional certification related to personal property management and why personnel may want to pursue professional certification. The General Services Administration (GSA) does not endorse any professional certification program.

Authority: There is no federal mandate for professional certification related to overall personal property management.

How does this apply to a federal agency? Many agencies seek ways to advance the professionalism of their personal property management personnel. Although GSA provides some training focused on specific topics, GSA does not provide an overall certification program addressing all areas of personal property management. There are several professional certification programs available; some of which may be of use to federal personal property personnel. Agencies may decide to provide funds and time for personnel to pursue this certification training, or personal property personnel may decide to pursue it on their own for professional growth.

Discussion: A professional certification is a designation earned by a person that verifies that he or she has met a predetermined set of standards. Certifications may be earned from a professional association, a university, or a private certifier. Certifications are typically valid for a specific period and require renewal periodically. Renewal of a certification usually involves proof of continued learning.

There is no government-wide requirement for personal property certification. However, personal property personnel should consider earning certifications for several reasons: Earning a certification improves a person's skills and knowledge; affords increased credibility in the person's field of work; and reflects a person's willingness to invest in professional development and a commitment to one's profession. Agencies may also consider developing their own training program or may adapt one of the existing programs to their purposes.

There are many certifications applicable to personal property management. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Logistician certifications through the International Society of Logistics Engineers (<http://www.sole.org/>),

- Property management certifications through the National Property Management Association (<https://www.npma.org/>),
- Program/project management certifications through the Federal Acquisition Institute (<https://www.fai.gov/>) , the Project Management Institute (<https://www.pmi.org/>), the Global Association for Quality Management (<https://www.gaqm.org/>), the International Association of Project Managers (<https://www.iapm.net/en/start/>), and the American Academy of Project Management (<https://americanacademyofprojectmanagement.com/>),
- Supply chain certifications through the Association for Supply Chain Management (<https://www.ascm.org/>), the Institute for Supply Management (<https://www.ismworld.org/>), and the International Society of Logistics Engineers (<http://www.sole.org/>), and
- ISO 55000 Asset Management through the Asset Leadership Network (<https://www.assetleadership.net/>) and The Institute of Asset Management (<https://theiam.org/professional-development/qualifications/>).

Personal property personnel interested in obtaining a certification should discuss it with their supervisor. If the agency agrees that certification is appropriate, including it in the personnel's Individual Development Plan (IDP) should be considered.

Ideally, a certification program for personal property management should address these topics:

- Management throughout the personal property lifecycle - acquisition, use, and disposal,
- Federal policy and guidance,
- Agency specific requirements, including roles and responsibilities, agency policies and procedures, accountability, and paperwork and process requirements,
- Roles other agencies can play in aiding and collaboration, and
- Asset-related voluntary consensus standards, federal best practices, and industry best practices.

Please note that certification is different from a certificate program. Earning a certificate indicates that a person has completed a course of study with a specific focus. While a certificate may become obsolete, it does not "expire" or require renewal.

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This information is not policy. Information here is developed as guidance by the Interagency Committee on Property Management (ICPM) to assist our federal community on topics not directly addressed by GSA policy. Informed revisions are welcome. Policy is developed through the official rulemaking process and can be found at www.gsa.gov/FMR.