



Center Certification and Lane Inspections

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Computerized Lane Inspector Program (CLIP)

USBC Headquarters has developed an Internet-based training program called the Computerized Lane Inspector Program (CLIP) for lane certification and inspection.

CLIP capitalizes on technology to enhance the Lane Inspectors Workshops (CLIW). It provides individuals with proof they are trained in certification and lane dressing inspection. This gives current inspectors who did not complete a CLIW a way to obtain a card/certificate.

By visiting the Equipment Specifications page of BOWL.com, you can access the Computerized Lane Inspector Program, the *CLIP Manual*, and take the inspector exam. The Web site also provides additional services such as the latest news on lane inspection and certification and a discussion forum so you can share information and experiences with other inspectors.

<p>NOTE: The training program will not “certify” and/or provide a number to those individuals that successfully complete the program. However, individuals that pass the exam will receive a certificate of completion and a card.</p>

Bowling Center Certification vs. Lane Dressing Inspection

There are two important processes that associations are responsible for related to each bowling center(s) located in its jurisdiction. They are the bowling center certification process and lane dressing inspections.

It is important associations do not confuse these two distinct processes. The bowling center certification process is the physical inspection of the center’s bowling lanes and pit areas (i.e., height, depth, etc.). However, the amount of lane dressing or oil on the lanes is measured in a separate inspection called a lane dressing inspection.

The association manager may select/appoint lane inspectors and verifies they complete the tasks assigned to them. However, the association manager is ultimately responsible for ensuring bowling center certification(s) and lane dressing inspections are completed and submitted to USBC Headquarters in the required timeframe.

<p>NOTE: A center’s certification expires every year on August 31.</p>

For additional information, reference the *USBC Center Inspection Manual*, available on the Equipment Specifications page of BOWL.com under Forms/Manuals/Bulletins.



The Center Certification Process

USBC rules state that centers must renew their certification by September 1 to host any USBC certified competition, including all Standard and Sport leagues and tournaments for that season.

Leagues and/or tournaments taking place in a center that is not certified will not be recognized by USBC. If this happens, the league/tournament will be notified by USBC Headquarters that the center they bowl in has not been certified, and will then be instructed to contact the local association to have the center certified.

The following applies to certified leagues bowling in centers that have not been USBC certified for the current season:

- Awards will not be issued until after the center has received its current certification.
- Averages will not be recognized until the center has received its current certification.

To renew or certify a bowling center, local associations must complete the following steps:

1. Initiate contact with the center(s) by April 1 to set up inspections for each center within its jurisdiction regardless of the certification status from the previous season.
2. Complete a bowling center inspection as soon as possible after April 1 to give centers enough time to make any necessary corrections that may need to be completed as a result of the inspections. Inspections may begin as early as April 1.
3. Submit certification applications electronically through BOWL.com no earlier than May 1, and no later than August 31. All center certification applications, regardless of whether the center met specifications or not, should be submitted electronically.
4. Associations must contact USBC Headquarters prior to certifying, for all centers not certified by May 1 for the current season. Contact information is specs@bowl.com or (800) 514-2695 extension 8407.

NOTE: The association's supply password will be needed for the online certification process.

Associations submitting a paper application to USBC for processing must note one of two things:

1. The center meets all USBC certification specifications – only page 1 is required to be submitted; or
2. The center does not meet USBC certification specifications – all 4 pages of the application are required to be submitted.
3. If the center has not been certified for more than one season, all four pages must be completed in full and sent to:
USBC Headquarters
621 Six Flags Dr.
Arlington, TX 76011
Attention: Center Certification
Or by email to specs@bowl.com or fax to (817) 385-8261.

Contact the Equipment Specifications and Certification team at USBC Headquarters with any specific issues or questions at (800) 514-BOWL, ext. 8407, or specs@bowl.com



Once a center has met all of the certification requirements, USBC Headquarters will send the center a *USBC Playing Rules Book*, a certificate and window decal verifying the center is certified for the current season.

NOTE: Under no circumstances will a certification be granted to a bowling center without the proper inspection and acceptable application. Further, a bowling center will not be granted a Sport certification until a Standard certification has been issued.

Lane Dressing Inspection Process

Before conducting a lane dressing inspection, associations should keep the following in mind:

- Do not schedule or announce inspections to the center(s) in advance.
- Inspect only on a condition that has been applied for certified league/tournament competition.
- Inspect as directed by USBC Headquarters whenever a condition is reported as questionable or non-complying.

Upon arrival at the center, the inspector should identify themselves, ask to speak to the person in charge, and request permission to make the lane dressing inspection. The inspector should make sure that the inspection will not interfere with normal center activity. If possible, it is recommended that an employee of the center accompany the inspector.

The inspector should arrive well before a league is scheduled to begin to ensure the inspection does not impede a league from starting on time.

It is extremely important that associations adhere to the following key points during the lane dressing inspection process:

- A minimum of one inspection per season – August 1 through July 31 – shall be required at each center holding certified competition.
- Never inspect during the center's annual certification inspection.
- Inspections must be performed before any bowling has taken place on freshly dressed lanes, i.e., zero lineage. Inspections do not need to be done on freshly stripped lanes.

The following points also should be adhered to when conducting a lane inspection:

- Select at least two (2) pairs of lanes – not adjoining lanes – inspect one lane of each pair. (For example, lane 3 and lane 8)
- Determine the total distance dressing is applied and buffed.
- All readings are to be taken from the 10-pin side.
- One reading within two to five feet of the end of the dressed/buffed area.

NOTE: Any lane dressing inspections submitted to USBC Headquarters for a bowling center that has not been certified will not be processed.

Additional Information

For more information about bowling center certification, lane inspections, or CLIP, visit the Equipment and Specifications/Certification page on bowl.com or contact the Equipment Specifications and Lane Certifications team at (800) 514-BOWL, ext. 8407, or specs@bowl.com.