

**CERTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LASER SPECIALISTS**

Note: This information represents the tentative ideas and proposals of the ISLSM and the WFLMS, worked out through consultation among core members of both societies and recognized leaders in the field of laser medicine and surgery. The data and criteria below are planned to be discussed and fully ratified during Laser Tokyo 2009, whereafter the final version will become the definitive information for IMeLaS certification.

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General Information

The ISLSM and the WFLMS will certify and grade candidates for International Medical Laser Specialist (IMeLaS) certification according to the following three criteria:

- 1: Attendance at, and Membership of, international laser societies and associations. Note that membership of the ISLSM is mandatory.
- 2: The candidate's experience in laser surgery and/or medicine since attaining membership of their respective laser societies.
- 3: The candidate's contributions to laser surgery and medicine through oral presentations at the congresses of their respective laser societies and associations, and their contributions to the laser medicine and surgery literature.

Grading System

The Grading System is tentatively divided into 4 ranks, namely Grades 4 to 1, starting from the lowest to the highest grades.

The ranks and titles of IMeLaS grading are as follows, from highest to lowest:

1st Grade: I-IMeLaS – Certified IMeLaS Instructor

2nd Grade: A-IMeLaS – Class A IMeLaS

3rd Grade: B-IMeLaS – Class B IMeLaS

4th Grade: C-IMeLaS – Class C IMeLaS

The following table summarizes certification grades and criteria.

Grade	Medical Laser Safety Course and Examination	Hands-on Session	Membership of ISLSM (minimum)	Oral Presentations [†] & Written Papers*	Submission of 10 Cases	Symposia, Special Lectures, Etc.
C-IMeLaS	R	R	0 years**	NR	NR	NR
B-IMeLaS	R	R	3 years	3	NR	NR
A-IMeLaS	R	R	6 years	6	R	1
I-IMeLaS	R	R	10 years	10	R	3

R: Required NR: Not required

[†] Must be **first author** of the oral presentation, but not necessarily the presenter

*First author of written article = 2 oral presentations;

2nd and following author of written article = 1 oral presentation

** ISLSM membership required before certification can be issued

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Requirement for application to the appropriate grade (starting from the lowest).

Please note that in the case of published articles, any article written as the first author will count as two oral contributions, and only as one oral contribution for the 2nd or subsequent author of an article.

4th Grade, C-IMeLaS: The applicant must be a licensed medical doctor of the country or the region in which he or she is practicing.

- The applicant is required to be a Member in Good Standing of the International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (ISLSM).
- The applicant is required to pass an examination after participating in a course of instruction in laser safety, and a practical hands on session.

3rd Grade, B-IMeLaS: In addition to the requirements for the 4th Grade Certificate, the applicant must fulfil the following:

- At least 3 years of active membership of the ISLSM.
- At least 3 oral presentations at the his or her respective international laser societies and/or associations, or literary contributions to recognized journals.

2nd Grade, A -IMeLaS: In addition to the requirements for the 3rd Grade Certificate, the applicant must fulfil the following:

- At least 6 years of active membership of international laser societies and/or associations.
- At least 6 oral presentations at his or her respective international laser societies and/or associations, or literary contributions to recognized journals.
- The applicant is required to submit medical records of 10 cases treated by the applicant with lasers. The records should include photographs to clearly show the aptitude and competence of the applicant.
- The applicant should have made at least one presentation at an international congress as either a symposiast, invited speaker, tutorial lecturer, keynote lecturer, or special lecturer.

1st Grade, I-IMeLaS: In addition to the requirements for the 3rd Grade Certificate, the applicant must fulfil the following:

- At least 10 years of active membership of the ISLSM.
- At least 10 oral presentations at his or her respective international laser societies and/or associations or literary contributions to recognized journals.
- At least 3 presentations at international meetings as either a symposiast, invited speaker, tutorial lecturer, keynote lecturer, or special lecturer.

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Upgrade Policy

Upgrading from an existing grade to a higher grade will be possible once the appropriate criteria have been fulfilled, including the length of active ISLSM Membership. It will be possible to apply for initial certification at any grade from the 2nd to the 4th grades (A-IMeLaS – C-IMeLaS), but applicants for 1st Grade certification (I-IMeLaS) must first hold an A-IMeLaS (2nd Grade) certification. Notwithstanding the above, if a candidate joins the ISLSM as a Life Member, then the length of ISLSM membership criterion will be deemed to have been satisfied for all grades of IMeLaS certification.

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Renewal of Certification

Certification at any grade is valid for 5 years, always provided the holder remains as a Member in Good Standing of the ISLSM. After that 5-year period, a renewal fee will be required to maintain certification (Table 2). On upgrading from any grade to a higher one, the 5-year period of validity will start from the date of the upgrade.

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