CTP® Certification Handbook

Certified Technical Practitioner. Eligibility, the exam, scoring, fees, the public registry and renewal, in one place.

International Insignia of Certified Technical Practitioners

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1 About this handbook

This handbook explains how to earn and keep the CTP® Certified Technical Practitioner credential from IICTP, the International Insignia of Certified Technical Practitioners: who can apply, how to book, what the exam is, what it costs, what you receive, and how to renew.

It is version 1.0, dated 21 October 2026. If it conflicts with the live pages at https://www.iictp.org, the live pages apply until this handbook is updated.

> **IICTP is a new independent credential. It is not ISO/IEC 17024 accredited.** We do not promise employment, salary or employer recognition.

2 The credential

Who it is for. Tech leads, engineering managers and senior IT project managers, roughly three to seven years in, who carry responsibility for a team's systems and delivery.

What you will be able to show.

- Make sound decisions on system design and architecture trade-offs.
- See technical risk early and contain it.
- Run sprint governance and team delivery that stays reliable under pressure.

Next step. PgTP® for programs across squads, or a specialist credential.

The credential is vendor-neutral, so what you prove travels with you between employers.

3 Eligibility

The CTP® is gated by experience. To apply you need:

- **With a bachelor's degree:** a bachelor's degree and 36 months of technical leadership.
- **Without a degree:** 60 months of technical leadership.

Evidence. Technical leadership means leading technical work: making design decisions, reviewing others' work, or being accountable for delivering a team's work. List each role with its dates and a

referee who can confirm it. One application in ten is audited at random.

You can check where you stand on the eligibility page: https://www.iictp.org/check-your-experience

4 Applying and booking

1. **Check eligibility** against the requirements above.
2. **Prepare.** Study the syllabus. Training fees are set by each Authorized Training Partner and are not included in the exam fee.
3. **Book the exam** on https://www.iictp.org. Payment is taken online and you receive a registration ID.
4. **Sit the exam** (see the next chapter).
5. **Earn the credential.** It is added to the public registry with a digital badge.
6. **Maintain it** by earning TDUs and renewing every three years.

Rescheduling. Reschedule-only. Examination voucher fees are non-refundable once registered. However, candidates can reschedule their exam sitting free of charge up to 24 hours prior to their scheduled exam window.

Scheduling. After you book, pick any online exam slot within 12 months. Slots run seven days a week.

5 The exam

Items	150 scenario-based questions
Time	180 minutes
Mode	Timed online exam, with an integrity attestation
Style	Each question puts you in a situation and asks for the best decision, not a perfect one.

What it covers

System design	Structure that holds up as it grows.
Architecture trade-offs	Choosing between good options, and saying why.

Technical risk	Seeing failure early and containing it.
Sprint governance & team delivery	Running delivery that stays reliable under pressure.

Blueprint: the five TPBOK domains

Every IICTP exam draws on the TPBOK. The share of questions per domain is shown below.

	Domain	Share of questions
Domain 1	Architecture & Systems Design	30%
Domain 2	Engineering Governance & Agile Delivery	24%
Domain 3	Applied AI & Emerging Tech Integration	18%
Domain 4	Infrastructure & Security	18%
Domain 5	People Leadership in Engineering	10%

Sample question

> Your team ships weekly. A dependency owned by another team has failed intermittently and caused two incidents this month. A release is due on Friday. What is the best next step?
>
> A. Ship on Friday and add retries to hide the failures.
> B. Agree a time-boxed fix with the owning team, and gate the release on a stated error budget.
> C. Freeze every release until the other team has fixed it.
> D. Replace the dependency this sprint.
>
> **Best answer: B.** It treats the failure as a shared risk with an owner and a deadline, and keeps delivery moving inside a stated limit. Retries alone hide the signal; freezing or replacing is out of proportion to the risk.
>
> Sample only. Not from the exam bank.

6 Scoring, results and retakes

Pass mark. 70% scaled score. Tiered standard: 65% for foundational (ATP), 70% for CTP and specialty credentials, 75% for executive leadership (PgTP, PfTP). Evaluated via psychometrically calibrated scaled scoring with no negative marking.

Retakes. 1 re-examination attempt included with your founding examination registration. Candidates who do not pass on their first sitting may schedule their retry after a recommended 14-day study period without paying a re-examination fee.

Results. You see a provisional pass or fail on screen when you finish. Your official result, with a rating for each domain, is emailed within 5 working days.

7 Exam rules and integrity

The exam is closed book and remotely proctored. Before you start, you show a government-issued photo ID. Your webcam and screen are recorded; the recording is checked by software, and anything it flags is reviewed by a person. No notes, second screen, phone or AI tools are allowed. Before you start, you also confirm that the work is your own and that you will follow the rules.

Using or claiming a credential you do not hold is prohibited by IICTP's Acceptable Use policy (https://www.iictp.org/acceptable-use).

Suspected misconduct. A suspected breach is screened, then reviewed by someone with no link to the case. You are told what is alleged and have 14 days to respond before a decision. Sanctions are: the result is voided, a ban from IICTP exams of up to 3 years, or revocation of a credential.

8 Fees

Exam fee (founding)	₹5,499 · Founding price.
Exam fee afterwards, member	$199 / ₹9,900
Exam fee afterwards, non-member	$279 / ₹13,900
Renewal every 3 years	$49 / ₹2,500 for members · $79 / ₹3,900 for others

Membership (per year)	Student $49 / ₹2,499 · Professional $79 / ₹3,999

Prices are shown in US dollars and rupees. Training fees are set by each Authorized Training Partner and are not included. Founding prices apply to the first cohort.

Refunds. Reschedule-only. Examination voucher fees are non-refundable once registered. However, candidates can reschedule their exam sitting free of charge up to 24 hours prior to their scheduled exam window.

9 Your credential and the public registry

When you pass, your credential is recorded in IICTP's public verification registry under a unique ID. Anyone can check it, without asking you, at https://www.iictp.org/verify.

The registry shows your name, credential title, certificate number, issue date and status. Exam scores and personal contact details are never listed.

Certified in Good Standing	The credential is current and its holder meets its requirements
Expired, lapsed or withdrawn	The credential has ended, or has been withdrawn under the credential rules

You may use the post-nominal CTP® while the credential is current. Stop using it when the credential has expired, lapsed or been withdrawn, unless you add that it is lapsed and the dates (https://www.iictp.org/trademarks).

You also receive a verifiable digital badge.

10 Keeping your credential: TDUs and renewal

The credential lasts three years. In each cycle you earn **60 Technical Development Units (TDUs)**, log them, and submit the log for audit. The credential means active competence, not a pass from years ago.

At least 35 TDUs from education (at least 10 each in systems architecture, technical delivery, and emerging technology including AI and cloud; the balance in general engineering) and up to 25 TDUs from giving back.

Education counts in: systems architecture, technical delivery, emerging technology (including AI and cloud), and general engineering.

Giving back counts as: open-source contributions, mentoring junior engineers, writing technical whitepapers, and speaking at an IICTP local chapter.

Renewal fee: $49 / ₹2,500 for members, $79 / ₹3,900 for others, every three years.

Logging and audit. One TDU is one hour of learning or giving back. Send your log to registry@iictp.org with each activity, its date and its hours, and keep your evidence for 18 months after the cycle ends. One log in ten is audited at random; if yours is picked, you have 30 days to send the evidence.

Late renewal. You have a 90-day grace period after your cycle ends, during which the registry shows your credential as Suspended. After that the credential lapses, and you re-sit the exam to hold it again.

11 Corrections, appeals and complaints

Credential holders may request corrections to their registry record, or appeal status decisions, through the Registrar (https://www.iictp.org/registry-policy).

Appeals against exam results and eligibility decisions. Appeal within 30 days of your result or decision, by writing to appeals@iictp.org with your candidate reference. Someone not involved in the original decision reviews it and replies within 30 days. If you disagree with that reply, a panel of the Board of Global Standards gives a final decision.

To contact IICTP, use https://www.iictp.org/contact.

12 Version history

1.0	21 October 2026. First edition, written from the information published on https://www.iictp.org.