

This document addresses frequently asked questions (FAQs) about requirements in Assembly Bill (AB) 118 related to the certification of alcohol and other drug programs, also known as substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs or facilities.

» **Why does the DHCS currently have two BHINs on “Certification of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs 1.0” and “2.0” on its website?**

DHCS issued ["Certification of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs 1.0"](#) as interim standards. This allows DHCS to process new and renewal applications to ensure that current certifications do not expire.

DHCS issued ["Certification of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs 2.0"](#) as a draft for public review and comment. When the “Certification of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs 2.0” is finalized and published, it will become the new required standards for all certified programs.

» **What type of programs are required to apply for alcohol and other drug certification?**

In accordance with [AB 118](#) and Health Safety Code (HSC) 11832.2(a), any business entity with a physical location in California that provides treatment, recovery, detoxification and/or medication for addiction treatment (MAT) services to SUD clients must obtain an alcohol and other drug certification from DHCS.

» **What type of programs can voluntarily apply for alcohol and other drug certification?**

In accordance with HSC 11832.22 any alcohol or other drug program exempt from mandatory certification under HSC 11832.2(b) may voluntarily apply for certification.

» **Are any programs exempt from obtaining alcohol and other drug certification?**

[AB 118](#) and HSC 11832.3 (a) state the following business entities that provide treatment, recovery, detoxification and/or MAT services to clients are exempt from mandatory alcohol and other drug certification, but may obtain voluntarily certification:

- 1) Residential SUD recovery or treatment facilities, driving-under-the-influence (DUI) programs, and narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) licensed by DHCS.
- 2) Clinics licensed by the State Department of Public Health
- 3) Health facilities licensed by the State Department of Public Health
- 4) Community care facilities licensed by the State Department of Social Services
- 5) Residential care facilities for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness licensed by the State Department of Social Services in accordance with Chapter 3.01 (commencing with Section 1568.01) of Division 2.
- 6) Residential care facilities for the elderly licensed by the State Department of Social Services in accordance with Chapter 3.2 (commencing with Section 1569) of Division 2.
- 7) Adult day health care centers licensed by the State Department of Social Services in accordance with Chapter 3.3 (commencing with Section 1570) of Division 2.
- 8) Public elementary and secondary schools as defined in the Education Code.
- 9) County jails and state correctional institutions, including juvenile justice facilities.

» **How do alcohol and other drug programs apply for certification from DHCS?**

An alcohol or other drug program can obtain an initial application for certification from the DHCS website at [Licensing and Certification - Applications, Forms and Fees](#). For additional questions, applicants may call DHCS' SUD Licensing and Certification Division at (916) 322-2911 or send an email to LCDquestions@dhcs.ca.gov.

» **When do facilities need to apply for alcohol and other drug certification by?**

In accordance with HSC 11832.25, an alcohol or other drug program that is not currently certified must apply no later than January 1, 2024, and obtain certification no later than January 1, 2025.