Do you have what it takes to become a Certified Packaging Professional (CPP)®?

The Certified Packaging Professional CPP® is the premier designation in the industry globally, signifying excellence as a packaging professional with the most recent IoPP salary survey revealing that CPPs® earn up to 10% more than their non-certified co-workers. Using the CPP® program to assess and evaluate one's professional competency validates you as internationally proficient as a packaging professional; a cut above your peers.

Isn’t it time that you joined recognised packaging experts from around the world with the industry’s leading professional designation and elevate the packaging profession globally?

1,274 Certified Packaging Professionals globally

Attaining the CPP® designation is an excellent investment in your professional development and the credential defines the packaging professional and allows organisations to seek out and hire the right professional based on verified knowledge, skills and industry contributions. The Certified Packaging Professional designation is the leading mark of excellence internationally and a must-have recognition of industry proficiency and achievement for packaging professionals.

The CPP program is founded and owned by the IoPP in the US and is exclusively delivered through Australasia via the AIP, South Africa via IPSA, Nigeria via IOPN and Spain via AESPACKAGING. The CPP program is now internationally recognised by the World Packaging Organisation (WPO) and continues to grow across the globe.
ABOUT CERTIFICATION
Since 1972, IoPP has awarded qualified applicants the designation ‘Certified Packaging Professional (CPP)®’. To date, more than 1,200 packaging professionals have attained CPP® status, and with good reason, it is the premier designation in the industry signifying excellence as a professional. The most recent IoPP salary survey revealed that CPP®s earn between 7% and 10% more than their non-certified co-workers. The IoPP is now collaborating with the World Packaging Organisation (WPO) to bring this international recognition to Australasia. The Certified Packaging Professional (CPP)® designation is a registered trademark of the Institute of Packaging Professionals (IoPP) and is internationally recognised by IoPP, AIP, IOPN, IPSA, AESPACKAGING and the WPO.

Candidates achieve the Certified Packaging Professional (CPP)® designation by demonstrating significant industry expertise and experience, measured through a flexible applicant testing process. CPP®s are in demand as speakers and as leaders on their packaging teams.

RECOGNITION
Attaining the CPP® designation is an excellent investment in your professional development. Yet among the benefits of having qualified is the public recognition that comes with the achievement.

The industry recognises the CPP® designation as a commitment to excellence in the packaging profession.

Those earning the CPP® designation are permitted and encouraged to use the suffix ‘CPP®’ after their name on business cards and letterhead, to wear the WPO/CPP® lapel pin, and to display the WPO/CPP® Certificate, which is suitable for framing.

CPP® QUALIFICATIONS
Only WPO members in good standing may apply for accreditation and recognition as a Certified Packaging Professional. Please join an WPO approved Member Association today.

Once you achieve your CPP®, you must keep your WPO approved Member Association up-to-date each year in order to retain certification. If you lose your certification, you must start the certification process over.

Currently, a candidate is qualified to begin the process if he/she has six years’ experience in packaging or a closely related technical discipline.

The six-year requirement can be satisfied in the following ways:
• Six years actual work experience, or;
• Diploma in Packaging Technology plus two years of work experience or;
• Masters in Food & Packaging plus two years of work experience or;
• Bachelor Degree in Food Science plus two years of work experience or;
• Bachelor Degree in Engineering plus two years of work experience or;
• Bachelor Degree in Packaging related area, plus two years of work experience, or;
• Bachelor of Science Degree in packaging related area, plus one year for Masters Degree, plus one year of actual work experience.

Completion of all four semesters of the Fundamentals of Packaging Technology series constitutes one year of experience, and is recommended as preparation for the CPP® exam.

Others who pass the requirements as set forth, but who have not yet obtained the six years of experience, can earn the Certified Professionals in Training (CPIT) designation.

Ask the WPO for further information on the CPIT program cpp@worldpackaging.org
Multiple-Choice Exam:
IoPP’s multiple-choice test is mandatory for every candidate entering the program. The test is comprised of 150 questions on packaging machinery, materials and technology. This is an ‘open book’ test. An 80% correct score is considered passing. Test is presented in an online, Internet-based format. Candidates demonstrate their command of applied packaging technology by successfully completing the MANDATORY Multiple-Choice Exam and one of the following options:

1. NARRATIVE EXAM:
Alternatively, candidates may choose to answer three narrative, ‘essay-type’ questions from a list of 10 such questions formulated by other Certified Packaging Professionals. The narrative questions are general in nature in order to permit and encourage appropriate responses drawn from each candidate’s own background, whether that is in consumer or industrial packaging, in engineering or design, in technical disciplines or management. Reference to various texts is encouraged. The answers are evaluated by a committee on a ‘pass/fail’ basis. This exam is a timed test due within a 4 day window. The questions are emailed to the applicant.

2. RESUME OF ACTIVITIES:
Candidates may complete a detailed resume form (supplied by WPO/IoPP) to document their past six (6) years of experience and active participation in packaging and/or related disciplines with a work resume attached. A Resume Review Committee awards points for continuous employment; participation in the WPO approved Member Association; presentations at conferences, seminars and meetings; publishing authored papers on appropriate technical and management topics; attending educational courses and industry exhibitions; teaching or lecturing; securing patents, and more.

3. WRITING A PAPER:
A candidate may write a new paper or submit an unpublished paper written within the past two years on a technical or management topic of his or her choice. The paper will be graded anonymously, ‘pass/fail’, by three qualified peers. Submitted papers become the property of WPO/IoPP, and may be published on the WPO/IoPP websites. Papers must be submitted electronically via e-mail.

Work submitted must be solely that of the candidate. No co-authored work is accepted. Professional paper guidelines are available via the WPO website. Candidates are encouraged to use published references in answering test questions and in writing papers.

4. PATENTS:
The candidate may submit proof of a patent granted no more than five (5) years prior to their certification or recertification application.

Co-inventor patents cannot be submitted as one of the two requirements. If both the Resume of Activities and Patent options are chosen, the submitted patent cannot also be included in the Resume of Activity point total. Co-inventor patents may be included on the Resume of Activities, with 1/2 the allowed point credit issued.

The CPP® candidate can apply for the Certification Application directly through the IoPP or an approved WPO Member Association. The candidate must also satisfactorily complete the Multiple-Choice Exam and one other option in the order they desire, within twelve months from the date of application. Any questions about these requirements should be directed to IoPP prior to applying for certification.

CURRENT FEES:
Costings for the CPP program include on-going membership with an approved WPO Member Association, $135 USD Certification and examination fee and purchase of the 6th edition of the Fundamentals of Packaging Technology Textbook. Contact the WPO for enrolment and to find out where to order the FPT Textbook in your region.
To enrol in the Certified Packaging Professional Program you are required at minimum to have 90 points in your Resume of Activities and at least 6 years experience. 20 CPE points are allowed to be rolled over for your next re-certification. The Resume of Activities must be supported by documentation of evidence, certificates, proof of activities. CPE stands for Certified Packaging Education. To find our more contact the WPO.

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