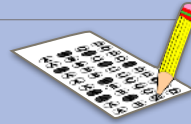


## RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

- Maintenance of Certification  
MOC = \$250/year with  
background sign off.
- Recertification every 4 years:  
200 CE Credits or Take written  
exam.
- New Certificate will be legal  
letter size, additional  
certificates, of either size below,  
may be purchased at time of  
recertification.
- Recertification notices will be  
sent via email



## CERTIFICATION EXAM

Written & Fabrication Exam  
Window: April - December

The Written Exam is taken at a  
Scantron/Measure Learning  
testing site closest to the  
candidate.

The Fabrication Exam is  
completed at the candidates  
office.

Exam Results 6-8 Weeks for full  
exam, 4-6 week for just the  
written exam.

Exam Applications (new, recert,  
or retake) are now available  
digitally on our website at  
[neboboard.org](http://neboboard.org)

Certification Exam is only  
Available in The United States and  
Canada.



# NEBO NEWS

## 2024

"...DEVELOP, MAINTAIN, AND  
ADMINISTER..."  
EXCELLENCE IN TESTING SINCE 1981

2050 KEOKUK ST., NEBO SUITE  
IOWA CITY, IA 52240  
319-339-1125

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BOARD CERTIFIED OCULARISTS!



*Erika Hedtcke  
Tennessee*



*Scott Marsh  
Florida*



*Kelley May  
Indiana*



*Mark Thaxter  
California*



*Savannah Wilt  
Pennsylvania*

Dear B.C.O.s, fellow Ocularists, and future B.C.O.s,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm pleased to share significant updates regarding several important issues that have recently been resolved.

As you may recall, NEBO obtained two Federal trademarks on our logo about three years ago, protecting it's use for B.C.O.s in good standing and being current. This protection also formally extends to Canada and, by association in many other countries. Around 2.5 years ago, we discovered that Patrick G. Adkins of Des Plaines, Illinois, had falsely claimed NEBO Board Certification. Further investigation proved he had been making these claims for the last seven years after his certification had lapsed. Despite a prior cease-and-desist order from NEBO, he submitted forged documents and statements to Medicare and Medicaid. NEBO promptly filed a federal court case, a civil fraud action, and a Medicare investigation. I'm pleased to inform you that the federal court found Adkins guilty, imposing a six-figure fine. The civil case was recently settled in the last 10 days, and Adkins has 80 days to comply with all our settlement conditions or face further legal consequences.

So, what does this mean for our Board Certified Ocularists? NEBO has now set both federal and state precedents for defending your B.C.O. credential. Medicare/Medicaid has barred Adkins (for using a false B.C.O. Certificate and making false statements) for 10 years. As a result we will be in further discussions about potentially limiting ocular prosthetics services to B.C.O.s nationwide as their provider requirements are outlined and now hopefully enforced. Several insurance companies, including most BC/BS, already require B.C.O. credentials, and we will be working toward national enforcement of their own standards as well.

In the past three weeks, NEBO also secured federal trademarks for "B.C.O."™ and "Board Certified Ocularist," providing further protection from misleading competition. Potential "confusingly similar" issues are being explored for enforcement compliance as I compose this update.

**Important Note:** If you are in good standing with NEBO, you must use the designation "B.C.O." (with periods after each letter, like M.D.) and or "Board Certificated Ocularist" in all communications and advertising. Retired B.C.O.s may use "B.C.O. (Ret.)" but are prohibited from using this designation for insurance payment purposes for you or any of your business entities. If you fail to maintain your certification, all use of the NEBO logo, as well as the terms "B.C.O." and "Board Certified Ocularist," must be removed, including from third-party websites promoting you or your business. Non-compliance may result in legal action, including a lifetime ban from recertification.

We will soon release a new code of ethics and a code of conduct as we finalize NEBO's recertification with I.C.E. for N.O.H.C.A..

This year, despite the legal challenges, NEBO developed over 30 new exam questions using A.S.O. course materials and published papers. Another record thanks to many efforts by NEBO B.C.O.s, Board members and NEBO staff.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, dedication, late-night and weekend efforts in securing these victories and advancing our profession.

For any questions regarding trademark use or other NEBO matters, feel free to contact our staff at 319-339-1125.

-Dr. Daniel C. Yeager, NEBO Executive Director