

Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists®



Provide Your Banking Clients with the Highest Qualified International Trade Practitioners

The Certified Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS®) is a professional qualification **recognized worldwide as a benchmark of competence for international trade practitioners**. CDCS® enables documentary credit practitioners to demonstrate the highest level of knowledge and understanding of the complex issues associated with documentary credit practice.

The Benefits of CDCS® Certification – – for Financial Institutions

Your business relies on the delivery of quality services for banking and corporate clients. By encouraging team members to obtain their CDCS® certification, you can assure your clients that your professional trade group is deeply knowledgeable and that their business transactions are safe, secure, and technically sound. With a team of CDCS® certified professionals, banks are able to showcase to prospective clients their capabilities to handle letters of credit and resolve challenging questions and issues.

To ensure that your CDCS® team members stay on top of the latest industry developments and trends, the CDCS® program requires recertification every three years. CDCS® professionals must participate in an ongoing program of continuing professional development. CDCS® professionals earn personal development units (PDUs) by attending conferences and workshops and completing online courses in specific areas of international trade finance and documentary credit practice.



CDCS is seen as an elite certification,

demonstrating our team's expertise to our clients. But achieving and maintaining the CDCS certification also serves as a critical career developmental program for our highly trained employees to expand and deepen their own capabilities, lead their teams, and grow our business. Even studying for the rigorous CDCS exam helps increase our employees' product knowledge. From a character trait standpoint, our CDCS professionals are self-motivated, pay high attention to detail, demonstrate high energy and are able to look at details from global perspective – all qualities valued by our clients."

— *Leadership and Learning Development Executive at Global Financial Institution*

Key Facts about the CDCS® Exam

- Exams are held in April and October each year
- The exam is a three-hour, paper-based exam
- The exam is split into two sections:
 - **Section A** – 60 multiple-choice questions
 - **Section B** – 10 multiple-choice questions, 3 in-basket exercises each with 5 linked multiple-choice questions and 3 simulation exercises

Register at baft.org/cdcs

For more information, visit: baft.org/cdcs or email cdcs@baft.org

The Benefits of CDCS® Certification – for Trade Practitioners

In a highly competitive global market, the CDCS® designation puts you head and shoulders above your peers by demonstrating your commitment to the industry and deep knowledge as a trade professional.

- Documentary credits – types, characteristics and uses, including standby credits
- Rules and trade terms, including ISBP 745, ISP 98, UCP 600, URR 725 and Incoterms 2010®
- Parties to documentary credit transactions and their roles and obligations
- Types and methods of payment / credit used in documentary credit transactions
- Types of transport, commercial and financial documents used in documentary credits
- Related products, including letters of indemnity, air way releases and steamship guarantees
- Risk issues, including types of risk, control and mitigants
- Implications of breaching rules related to financial crime including money laundering and terrorist financing

On completion of the CDCS® qualification you will be able to use the designation 'CDCS' after your name for three years and be included on the CDCS Registry.

Preparing for the CDCS® Exam

- Recommended preparation time is 300 study hours
- Preparation through independent study
- Registration includes access to online study resources: a detailed study guide "Guide to Documentary Credits", student handbook, and practice test and answers
- Hard copy of study guide available for purchase
- Learning focuses on the principles and practices of documentary credit transactions: the products, parties, processes, rules, and trade terms

“ CDCS is the only certification that showcases the exceptional capabilities of documentary credit specialists in handling letters of credit and the complexity of issues and questions. The CDCS exam is one of the most difficult exams that any trade practitioner can pass, thereby truly demonstrating expertise in this area.”

— Risk Management Executive
at Global Financial Institution

92 percent of CDCS® students* said the qualification has helped their professional development or career prospects.

**ifs survey of recent CDCS® students*

For more information, visit: baft.org/cdcs or email cdcs@baft.org