ACE Recertification Policy Overview

The Arista Certified Engineer (ACE) recertification policy was introduced on June 1, 2025, alongside the launch of the enhanced Arista Academy and its certification program. This policy outlines how certified individuals can maintain their ACE credentials and transition to the new program.

General Recertification Schedule (Levels 1-5 & 7)

- **For certifications earned before June 1, 2024:** Recertification is required by **June 1, 2026**.

- **For certifications earned after June 1, 2024:** Recertification is required within **two (2) years** of the certification date.

- Subsequent recertifications are required every **two years** thereafter.

Level 6 Certification

- This certification level has been **retired**.

- Current Level 6 holders may continue to use their credential.

- Pursuing the **Level 7 Expert certification** is recommended.

Expert Level 7 Certification

- Holding an Expert Level 7 certification **removes the requirement** to recertify for any lower-level certifications, as it encompasses all other Arista certifications.

Certification / Recertification Exam Considerations

With the transition of the Arista Academy to the new Learning Track program and associated certifications, please note the following:

- Existing Level 1 through Level 5 exams will be available until December 31, 2025.

- New Learning Track exams will be introduced throughout 2025, fully replacing the current Level 1 through Level 5 exams upon their retirement on December 31, 2025.

- The Level 6 certification and its corresponding exam are no longer available. Level 6 holders are advised to pursue the Level 7 Expert certification when possible.

- The new program will retain the existing Level 7 Expert exam. A "recertification" version, a subset of the primary exam, is expected by Q1 2026.

Maintaining and Transitioning Existing Certifications

If you currently hold L1 through L7 certifications (excluding the retired L6), you have two options to maintain your certified status. Again, please note that existing exams will be discontinued after December 31, 2025.

Option 1: Recertify using existing exams (before December 31, 2025)

Passing the corresponding L1 through L7 exam by December 31, 2025, will extend your current certification level for an additional two years from the passing date. For example, an L3 certified individual who passes the L3 exam by their recertification deadline (prior to December 31, 2025) will extend their L3 certification for two more years. When it's time to recertify again after this two-year period, you will be required to take the new Data Center Engineering Specialist L3 exam to maintain a compatible certification. There are no penalties or limitations with this option, and all rights and privileges associated with existing certifications will be retained.

Option 2: Transition to the new certification program

You can choose to take the new Data Center Engineering Specialist L3 exam (or the appropriate new exam for your certification level) instead of your existing L1 through L7 exam. This seamless transition to the new certification program offers pathways to progress towards the new Professional L5 certification and update your expertise. After December 31, 2025, taking the new certification exam will be your only option as existing exams will be retired.

Recertification Options Summary:

Prior to December 31, 2025:

- Recertify with your original Level 1 through Level 5 exam.

- OR a "compatible" new Learning Track exam if available.

After December 31, 2025:

- Recertify with a new "compatible" Learning Track exam.

Specific Level Information:

- **Level 6:** The Level 6 certification has been retired, but the L6 credential remains valid. Candidates are encouraged to obtain the Level 7 Expert certification.

- **Level 7:** Take the Level 7 Expert Recertification Exam (expected availability Q1 2026) by the relative deadline date.

Currently available "compatible" Learning Track exams:

- Foundations (compatible with L1)

- Data Center Operations (compatible with L2)

- Data Center Engineering (compatible with L3)

Estimated release for other "compatible" Learning Track exams:

- Routing Engineering (compatible with L4) - Q4 2025

- Automation Engineering (compatible with L5) - Q4 2025

Clarification on "Compatible" Learning Track exams:

"Compatible" Learning Track exams cover similar topics as L-level exams but are not exact replacements. Prior success on L-level exams does not guarantee success on new Learning Track exams due to updated content and requirements.

Recertification Examples

- **John:** Passed his L3 exam on March 15, 2023. He must recertify by July 1, 2026. He can take the L3 exam (until December 31, 2025) or the new Data Center Engineering exam before his recertification date.

- **Cathy:** Passed her L2 exam on September 15, 2024. She must recertify by September 15, 2026. She can take the L2 exam (until December 31, 2025) or the new Data Center Operations exam before her recertification deadline.

- **Michael:** Passed his L5 exam on November 12, 2024. He must recertify by November 12, 2026. He can take the Automation Engineering exam (available by Q4 2025).

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