

I hold both state and national certification and work in VRS. The only way I was able to afford to get my national certification (currently \$625) and can continue to pay the yearly certification fees (\$160/year) to RID is because my employer pays for those costs. It is financially very difficult for most interpreters to afford national certification with RID. Our state certification test is significantly more affordable at \$100 with maintenance costs at \$40/year. While I respect RID as a certifying body of interpreters, it is not the only organization with quality certification testing. Other state QA (Quality Assurance) certification tests should be accepted for VRS employment and not only RID national certification. RID has a financial bias to encourage the FCC to require that VRS CAs have RID certification to work in the VRS setting.

Further, there are individuals who are qualified to interpret in the VRS setting who do not yet hold certification. Some VRS companies have their own pre-hire screening in place to ensure that all candidates with and without certification are qualified for VRS interpreting. To meet the needs and demands of call volume for deaf and hard of hearing customers, VRS companies need to be allowed to have interpreters who are qualified regardless of which measurement tool is used, RID’s NIC test, state QA tests, or individual company screenings.

I personally have seen individuals with RID national certification who are not qualified to interpret in the VRS setting. For instance, they received their certification 25 years ago and have not interpreted much in those 25 years and or worked only in an educational setting. They do not have sufficient skills to interpret from ASL to spoken English for deaf and hard of hearing consumers. I have also seen children of deaf adults whose first language is American Sign Language who have no certification, but their skills are far better than nationally certified interpreters.

I urge the FCC to not limit the number of an already limited pool of interpreters who can work in the VRS setting by requiring and accepting only RID certification for working in VRS. This would certainly increase hold times for VRS customers (because there would be fewer CAs to interpret calls and handle call volume), and it would cause many interpreters to lose their jobs. My recommendation is to look at accepting RID certification, state QA certification, and company screening tools to determine who is “qualified” to interpret for VRS companies.

From the RID web site www.rid.org

NIC Certification Test Fees

Member Examination Fees	New Applicant	Retake
<i>NIC Knowledge</i>	\$270	\$220
<i>NIC Interview and Performance</i>	\$355	\$305
<i>Non-Member Examination Fees</i>	New Applicant	Retake
<i>NIC Knowledge</i>	\$370	\$320
<i>NIC Interview and Performance</i>	\$455	\$405

Dues

Definitions and requirements for membership categories are located [here](#). To ensure correct processing of your application, make sure you have followed all the instructions for your category.

*** Select a package:**

The year shown in parentheses for each option below represents your new expiration year if that package is selected.

Certified	1 year (2013) - \$160.00 <input type="radio"/>	2 years (2014) - \$315.00 <input type="radio"/>	3 years (2015) - \$470.00 <input type="radio"/>
Certified Senior	1 year (2013) - \$96.00 <input type="radio"/>	2 years (2014) - \$187.00 <input type="radio"/>	3 years (2015) - \$278.00 <input type="radio"/>
Certified Retired	1 year (2013) - \$40.00 <input type="radio"/>		