

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding Online RFPs and the CardioReady® Certification Program

As part of an initiative to advance meeting safety in conjunction with an industry-wide initiative with the American Heart Association and CardioReady, meeting facilities are requested to respond to the following question now included in the OnVantage Online RFP:

“Will there be a CardioReady® certified cardiac emergency program - including AEDs - in place for this meeting? Due to evolving standards of care, a CardioReady certified property may receive preference over a non-certified one.”

1. How should I respond to this question?

If you are not sure, you should answer, “No”. Otherwise, you should answer, “Yes” if you know if your facility is either: a) already CardioReady® certified and will maintain its certification, b) is in the process of becoming certified, or c) is willing to acquire the equipment and training to become certified if selected.

2. Where can I find out more about CardioReady certification?

If you have questions about the status of your facility, please contact the CardioReady hotline by telephone at (732) 475-9208 or via e-mail at info@cardioready.com. You may also visit CardioReady on the web at www.cardioready.com.

3. We have staff that is certified in American Heart Association CPR and AED. Is that the same thing as CardioReady® certification?

No, but American Heart Association CPR and AED certification is a component of CardioReady certification, which establishes much-needed standards and guidelines for the industry and includes:

- The proper placement and maintenance of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the facility to ensure that an AED can arrive at a victim’s side and deliver life-saving shock within a 3-5 minute response time.
- Staff training in CPR and AED.
- A managed, documented cardiac emergency readiness plan with physician oversight.
- Coordination with local emergency response entities.
- The application of best practices recommended by the American Heart Association in compliance with the prevailing local, state and federal guidelines.

4. Why does it matter if my facility is CardioReady certified?

- At least once every two minutes, someone in America dies from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) which can strike anyone, anywhere, regardless of age.
- That's 335,000 deaths per year - more than breast cancer, lung cancer, colon cancer, automobile accidents, and homicides combined.
- The chances of surviving SCA increase from 0% to 70% if a shock from an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is delivered within 3-5 minutes of collapse.
- Since professional emergency response can take an average of 12 minutes or more, onsite AEDs are necessary to provide any chance of survival in the critical 3-5 minute window.
- While easy-to-use AEDs have been widely deployed in many types of public venues such as airports, arenas, shopping malls, amusement parks and casinos, it is estimated that less than 10% of hotels and only 10-20% of convention centers have even a single AED available.

5. Who is CardioReady?

CR Certification Corporation ("CardioReady") is a totally independent entity comprised of doctors, attorneys and AED industry veterans, dedicated to reviewing cardiac emergency readiness programs to determine if best practices have been employed. CRCC certifies only those facilities as CardioReady® which have met or exceeded this strict standard.

6. Why will CardioReady certification be important to meeting planners?

Many of your clients may already be protected by AED programs at their places of business. If the importance of AEDs in the workplace has been acknowledged, there is a growing expectation that those same protections should continue for employees while traveling - especially on company-mandated trips.

7. How much would it cost for my facility to become CardioReady certified?

In many cases, the booking of a single small to moderate-sized meeting will more than cover the cost of a complete program (including equipment and training) for an entire year, making your facility CardioReady for every guest, group, attendee and employee.