



USBC Tiered Center Certification

May 2025

After two years of national center inspections, analysis of the data, and feedback from industry stakeholders, combined with more than 10 years of ongoing research, the United States Bowling Congress has finalized its tiered certification structure for bowling centers. This new structure recognizes centers for their compliance with USBC Equipment Specifications and categorizes them into four tiers:

- ★ **Gold:** Meets at least 90% of all specifications.
- ★ **Silver:** Meets 80%–89.9% of all specifications.
- ★ **Bronze:** Meets 70%–79.9% of all specifications.
- ★ **Standard:** Meets less than 70% of all specifications.

New for 2026

- ★ **Extended Certification Cycle:** All centers will transition to a five-year cycle for inspections, compared to the initial time frame of every three years. This includes centers that fall into the Standard tier, which previously required an annual inspection until achieving a score in one of the top three tiers.
- ★ **Reduced Annual Cost:** The inspection fee will be reduced by 20% starting in 2026. The annual cost will drop to \$8 per lane (previously \$10 per lane). The total fee now will be \$40 per lane for the five-year cycle.
- ★ **Centers Control the Data:** USBC will not be publishing a center's certification level. The data will be shared privately with each center. Centers may choose to share their status at their own discretion.

These updates reflect USBC's commitment to providing more value while supporting centers in maintaining high standards.



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