

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Certified copy versus certified translation

What is the difference between a certified copy and a certified translation?

A certified copy concerns the relationship of a copy to an original or official record. A certified translation concerns the accuracy and completeness of language work. The recipient may require one, both or a different document-delivery process.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the statement the recipient requires
- ☐ Check the source-copy and delivery rule
- ☐ Treat language certification separately
- ☐ Order notarization only for a stated purpose

A little support for your next step.

Eagle Translate has reserved the discount code SUPPORT25 for Immigrant Insider readers, to help immigrants in the United States with document translation costs. Use your reader code when you order. No expiration date. No usage limit.

Reader code: SUPPORT25

<https://eagletranslate.com/>

Check the order total before payment.

Notes and questions to follow up

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Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: Policy Manual: evidence

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-1-part-e-chapter-6>

California Secretary of State: Apostille frequently asked questions

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/notary/apostille-faqs>

U.S. Department of Education: Recognition of foreign qualifications

<https://www.ed.gov/about/initiatives/international-affairs/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications>

U.S. Department of State: Civil documents for immigrant visa processing

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/the-immigrant-visa-process/step-5-collect-financial-evidence-and-other-supporting-documents/step-7-collect-civil-documents.html>

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/documents/certified-copy-versus-translation/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.