



CARRIER ETHERNET CERTIFICATION

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & EVOLUTION

How is Mplify evolving and expanding its MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet certification?

Mplify is evolving the MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet certification to reflect how Carrier Ethernet is delivered, managed, and consumed today.

This evolution preserves the credibility and rigor of MEF 3.0 while updating the certification's branding, program structure, and lifecycle model. As part of this evolution, certified companies gain access to updated certification branding, inclusion in a new Mplify Carrier Ethernet Certification Registry, and participation in a formal certification maintenance program.

Does this replace my current MEF 3.0 certification?

MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet certification evolves into Mplify Carrier Ethernet for Business Certification. The certification's rigor and recognition continue, while the program is modernized to align with current and future market needs including the formal certification maintenance program. Mplify will introduce Mplify Carrier Ethernet for AI Certification as part of the expanded portfolio, with availability targeted for the second quarter of 2026.



What certifications are included in the Mplify Carrier Ethernet Certification Program?

The Mplify Carrier Ethernet Certification Program includes two certifications:

1. Carrier Ethernet for Business Certification, which is the evolution of MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet certification, and
2. Carrier Ethernet for AI Certification, which validates the service behavior and stringent performance requirements to support AI and agentic AI workloads.

Each certification addresses different use cases and participation is optional.

What does “transport readiness for AI” mean in the context of Carrier Ethernet certification?

In the context of Carrier Ethernet certification, *transport readiness for AI* refers to validating the network performance characteristics required to support AI and agentic AI workloads. This includes independent, third-party validation that Carrier Ethernet services meet defined performance expectations for transporting large volumes of data reliably and predictably across distributed network environments.

Carrier Ethernet certification does not validate AI applications, models, or outcomes. Instead, it focuses on the underlying transport capabilities needed to support AI workloads operating across geographically distributed infrastructure.

Why should organizations pursue Carrier Ethernet certification?

Carrier Ethernet certification provides independent validation that solutions and services comply with industry-defined standards and deliver performance and operational consistency across multiple deployment and business models. It helps organizations differentiate their solutions and services, demonstrate readiness for evolving requirements—including AI-driven applications—and give customers greater confidence in their solutions and services.

Does Carrier Ethernet certification validate interoperability between providers or networks?

No. Carrier Ethernet certification does not validate interoperability between providers or networks. Certification validates that Carrier Ethernet services and technologies meet defined performance and service behavior requirements based on industry-defined standards. While these standards support consistent implementation, the certification itself does not test or certify multi-provider interoperability.

Is this certification intended for enterprise services, wholesale services, or both?

Carrier Ethernet Certification applies to both enterprise and wholesale services. The Carrier Ethernet for Business certification validates Carrier Ethernet services across multiple deployment

and business models. Certifiable services include E-Line, E-LAN, E-Tree, Access E-Line, and Transit E-Line.

Carrier Ethernet for AI certification serves as a foundational component of NaaS for AI and agentic AI applications, validating the transport performance required to support AI workloads across geographically distributed, multi-provider environments. Certifiable services include E-Line, Access E-Line, and Transit E-Line.

ELIGIBILITY & PARTICIPATION

Who is eligible to participate in Carrier Ethernet Certification?

Carrier Ethernet Certification is available to Service Provider and Technology Provider Mplify members with or without prior MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet certification. Eligibility paths vary depending on an organization's certification history.

What if I'm MEF 3.0 certified but no longer a member of Mplify?

Carrier Ethernet Certification is available exclusively to Mplify members. Organizations may rejoin Mplify and enroll in the new certification program.

What if I'm MEF 2.0 certified?

MEF 2.0 certifications are retired. Organizations may enroll in Mplify Carrier Ethernet for Business Certification and / or Carrier Ethernet for AI Certification when available.

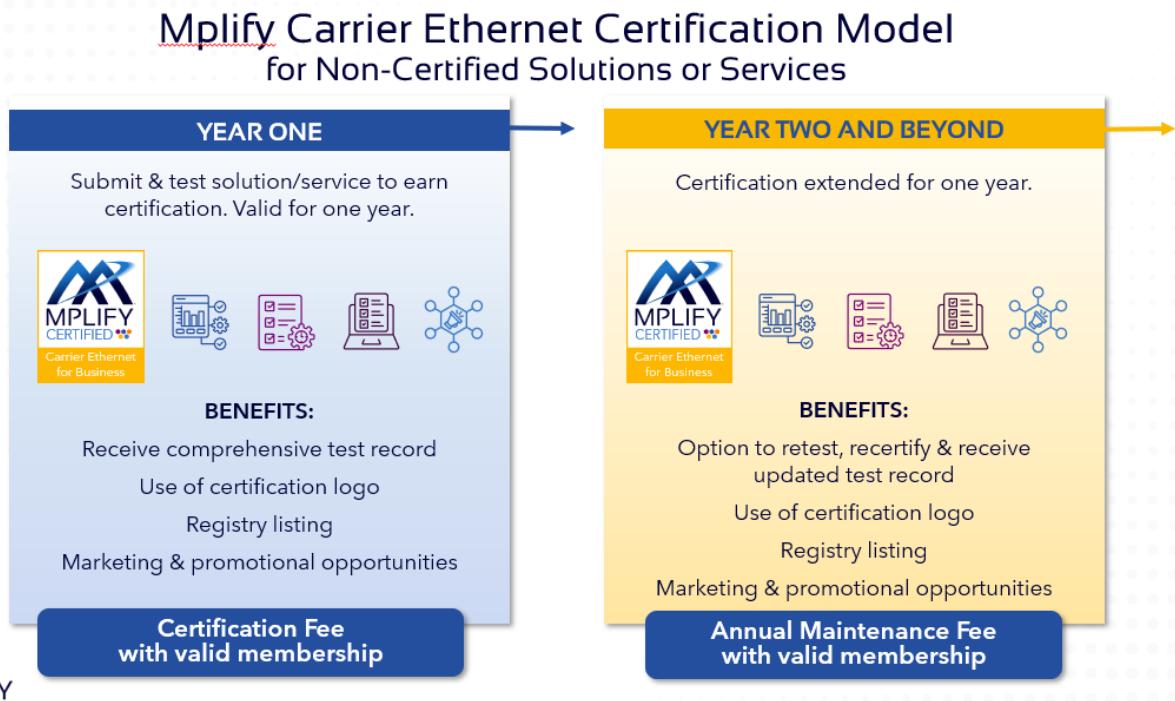
Should I take action now, or can I wait?

Eligible organizations should enroll in the new program as soon as possible to take advantage of transition benefits and ensure uninterrupted certification recognition.

CERTIFICATION MODEL, TESTING & MAINTENANCE

How does the certification and maintenance model work at a high level?

Companies pay once per certification. An annual maintenance fee keeps the certification active and provides the option to retest and refresh certification records, including an updated Test Record.



Does the Carrier Ethernet for Business Certification introduce any new technical requirements or expectations?

No. Carrier Ethernet for Business Certification does not introduce new technical requirements as part of this evolution. The certification preserves existing rigor while modernizing the program structure and lifecycle management.

Do I need to retest to receive the updated Carrier Ethernet for Business certification?

For MEF 3.0 CE certified solutions or services, retesting is optional. Providers may elect to retest to update their certification and receive an updated Test Record.

How are services tested and certified?

Certification testing is conducted using Lab in the Sky, the fully automated, cloud-based test and certification platform operated by iometrix, Mplify's accredited test and certification partner for Carrier Ethernet.

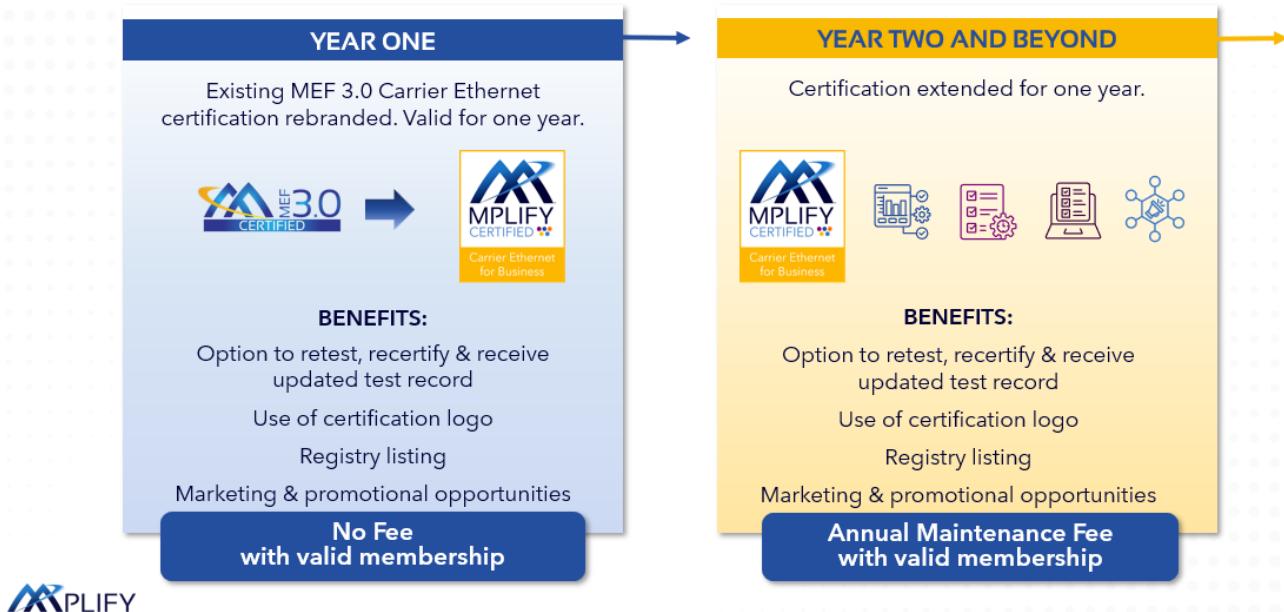


CERTIFICATION BRANDING & REGISTRY

Will I receive a new certification logo?

Mplify members in good standing who already have MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet certifications can join the Carrier Ethernet for Business certification program to receive the first year at no cost, have their certifications updated to Carrier Ethernet for Business, use the new certification logo, be included in the Mplify Certification Registry, and benefit from Mplify marketing and promotional activities. Retesting is optional and may be elected by providers to update their certification Test Record.

Mplify Carrier Ethernet Certification Model for MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet Certified Solutions or Services



Will Carrier Ethernet for Business and Carrier Ethernet for AI appear separately in the Certification Registry?

Yes. Carrier Ethernet for Business and Carrier Ethernet for AI certifications will be clearly identified as distinct certifications within the Mplify Carrier Ethernet Certification Registry.

The registry provides transparency by listing certified services and technologies along with their applicable certification category and logo, allowing enterprises, partners, and ecosystem stakeholders to clearly understand the scope and focus of each certification.

Does the rebrand affect my status in the Certified Provider Registry?

Your Carrier Ethernet for Business certification will be included in the new Mplify Carrier Ethernet Certification Registry. Your listing will automatically be updated to reflect the new certification name and logo.

PURPOSE, GUIDANCE & NEXT STEPS

Why is Mplify making this change?

This evolution ensures Carrier Ethernet certification remains clear and consistent as the market evolves towards AI-ready networking, while preserving the credibility and recognition established under MEF 3.0.

How should service and technology providers explain this change to customers and prospects?

Providers can explain this as the evolution of the MEF 3.0 Carrier Ethernet certification into Mplify Carrier Ethernet Certification for Business, preserving the rigor of the existing certification while aligning it more clearly with AI-ready networking requirements.

What future certifications should members expect next?

Mplify plans to continue evolving its Carrier Ethernet certification portfolio, including future certifications aligned with emerging AI-driven networking needs. Details on timing and scope will be shared as programs are formally introduced.

Can I still reference MEF 3.0 in historical materials?

Yes. Historical references are unchanged. Going forward, you should use the updated certification name and logo.

Who can I contact with questions?

Visit Carrier Ethernet Certification for [services](#) or [technology products](#) on <https://www.mplify.net>, or contact CE@mplify.net.

About Mplify

Mplify is a global alliance of network, cloud, cybersecurity, and enterprise organizations working together to accelerate the AI-powered digital economy through standardization, automation, certification, and collaboration. As the defining authority behind Carrier Ethernet, [Lifecycle Service Orchestration](#) (LSO) APIs, and [certified SASE and SD-WAN](#), Mplify has developed the global blueprint for [Network-as-a-Service](#) (NaaS) that is empowering the industry to innovate, interoperate, and scale trusted network services across a global ecosystem. For more information, please visit mplify.net and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [BlueSky](#), and [YouTube](#) @mplifyalliance.