



**American Alliance of Professional  
Translators and Interpreters**  
ADVOCATE - EDUCATE – CONNECT

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## Consumer Benefits

Licensing and certification are ways of establishing a baseline level of competence in a given area. However, licensing is superior to certification because it is mandatory and has legal consequences if the licensee fails to meet the standards or regulations.

While certified interpreters and translators are expected to adhere to quality assurance, ethical standards, and professional competence, there are no adverse consequences for those who violate them. This lack of consequences places certified language professionals on the same level as those who practice without certification and undermines the effectiveness of certification as a means of ensuring quality in the field.

Consumers can be assured of the quality of licensed language professionals because they are officially recognized. The standards discourage unlicensed individuals from practicing illegally.

In effect, licensing is a more rigorous and comprehensive process than certification. It is mandatory, legally backed, and has consequences for failure to meet the required standards. This makes it a more reliable way to ensure that professionals have the necessary skills and knowledge to provide quality services in their field.