



2026 NAMFS Leadership Summit–Executive Brief

Session: NAMFS Certification - Strengthening Industry Credibility, Vendor Verification, and Professional Standards

Executive Summary

The NAMFS Leadership Summit explored the development of an industry-wide certification framework designed to strengthen the credibility, professionalism, and accountability of companies and individuals operating within mortgage field services and asset management.

The discussion reflected broad support for establishing a standardized process that helps industry stakeholders identify legitimate service providers, recognize professional qualifications, and improve confidence throughout the vendor engagement process.

While the initiative remains in development, participants identified several opportunities for NAMFS to leverage its existing educational resources, industry relationships, and established standards to create a meaningful credentialing program.

Key Discussion Outcomes

1. Establishing a Consistent Verification Framework

A proposed certification model would combine NAMFS Academy education with business legitimacy verification, including business registration, tax identification validation, insurance documentation, industry-standard background screening, and applicable safety requirements.

The objective is to establish consistent, independently verifiable qualifications that improve confidence in the legitimacy of participating **businesses and professionals.**

2. Recognizing Companies and Individual Professionals

Participants explored separate certification pathways for vendor companies and individual field professionals. This approach could recognize established businesses while also creating opportunities for individual inspectors and preservation contractors to demonstrate their professional commitment.



Consideration was given to creating accessible entry-level pathways to encourage workforce development without unnecessarily restricting new industry participants.

3. Expanding Education and Continuing Professional Development

The NAMFS Academy would serve as a foundational component, building upon existing Inspection, Preservation, and Combined certifications. Potential future offerings include Single-Family Rental, Asset Management, Property Management, additional safety education, and continuing education focused on evolving industry requirements and best practices.

4. Creating Meaningful Industry Recognition

A verified vendor directory, digital credentials, and enhanced NAMFS website visibility were discussed as opportunities to help participating companies differentiate themselves and connect with potential business opportunities.

For the certification to deliver lasting value, participants emphasized the importance of recognition and adoption by national providers, servicers, asset managers, and other organizations engaging field service professionals.

5. Balancing Credibility with Association Risk

A critical consideration is ensuring that certification validates defined credentials and requirements without becoming a guarantee of workmanship, performance, or suitability for a particular assignment.

Clear program criteria, appropriate disclosures, renewal requirements, and procedures for addressing certification concerns will be essential.

Strategic Implications

A credible, widely recognized certification program could reduce duplicative administrative verification, support vendor recruitment, improve transparency, strengthen workforce development, and create additional opportunities for established and emerging service providers.

The initiative also presents an opportunity to reinforce NAMFS's role in advancing industry standards while ensuring that certification remains practical, affordable, and accessible.



Recommended Next Steps

- Define the scope, eligibility standards, and distinctions between company and individual credentials.
- Establish objective verification, annual renewal, and credential review procedures.
- Evaluate program administration, implementation costs, and potential technology integration.
- Engage industry stakeholders to assess adoption opportunities and the practical value of certification.
- Continue committee development and solicit additional industry feedback before finalizing the program.

Executive Takeaway

Industry certification should be more than a designation. Its value will come from establishing trusted, consistent standards that recognize professionalism, improve transparency, and create meaningful benefits throughout the service chain.

The Summit established a foundation for continued collaboration toward a sustainable certification framework that supports NAMFS's broader mission of elevating industry standards.