

Title 10 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Subtitle 60 BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

Chapter 03 Continuing Education

Authority: Health Occupations Article, §§21-101—21-502, Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Approval of Training.

A. Board-approved training shall be designed to improve, advance, or extend professional skill and knowledge relating to the practice of an environmental health specialist.

B. For courses for which continuing education units (CEUs) have been assigned, one CEU is equivalent to 10 clock or classroom hours of approved training.

C. Board-approved training may consist of participation in any of the following:

- (1) College-level or post-graduate course work given by an accredited college or university;
- (2) Courses, seminars, workshops, or lectures;
- (3) Extension studies, on-line courses, and correspondence courses, if there is satisfactory proof of completion, acceptable to the Board;
- (4) In-service training, if there is satisfactory proof of completion;
- (5) Authoring a paper published in a professional journal requiring peer review; or
- (6) Instruction of approved training courses.

D. Approved Training Log. The Board shall maintain a current list of all training that has been approved by the Board and that listing is to be called the Approved Training Log.

E. Assignment of Credit.

(1) The Board shall determine the hours of approved training as follows:

(a) For courses given in educational institutions, 1 hour of approved training is equivalent to 1 hour of classroom training;

(b) Credit hours for training such as online courses, correspondence courses, extension studies, and authored papers shall be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis; and

(c) Credit hours for participation in instruction of an approved training course shall be:

- (i) Credited to the instructor as 1 hour of credit for 1 hour of instruction;
- (ii) Accepted for up to 10 hours of training per renewal period; and
- (iii) Accepted only once per renewal period for each training course.

(2) Approved training shall be credited to the license renewal period if:

- (a) Taken during the renewal period;
- (b) Evidence of completion is submitted within 90 days of completion of the training; and
- (c) The training meets the requirements set forth in Regulation .01A of this chapter.

(3) Credit shall be received for other training approved by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

(4) Within the license renewal period, credit may not be received for training that is substantially similar to another training as determined by the Board.

F. Procedures. The sponsor of a training course or licensee may request of the Board approval of training on a form provided by the Board.

.02 Proof of Training.

A. Each licensed environmental health specialist shall be responsible for the submission of proof of all approved training to the Board.

B. Proof of training consists of:

- (1) Transcripts from an educational institution attesting to the satisfactory completion of training;
- (2) A certificate or other documentation signed by the instructor or sponsor of the training, attesting to the satisfactory completion of the training; or
- (3) Other documentation determined by the Board to be adequate, in light of the nature of the training, to establish that training was actually received by the applicant.

.03 Pre-Approved Providers and Courses.

A. Pre-Approved Providers.

(1) Pre-approved providers shall offer continuing education programs that meet the objectives set forth in Regulations .01A and C of this chapter.

(2) The following are pre-approved providers:

- (a) National, regional, or State accredited academic institutions offering academic courses programs recognized as acceptable environmental health specialist subject areas as defined by COMAR 10.60.01B(19);

(b) State regional, national, or international, environmental health specialist associations offering educational programs recognized as acceptable environmental health specialist subject areas as defined by COMAR 10.60.01B(19); and

(c) State, regional, national, or international non-environmental health specialist associations offering educational programs recognized as acceptable environmental health specialist subject areas as defined by COMAR 10.60.01B(19).

B. The Board shall maintain a list of pre-approved providers and pre-approved continuing education courses on its website.

.04 Extension of Time.

A. The Board may grant an extension and conditionally renew a license for 6 months if the Board determines that:

(1) Failure to fulfill the continuing education requirements is a result of:

(a) Functional impairment or prolonged illness that has been diagnosed by a health care practitioner;

(b) Mandatory military service or deployment;

(c) A prolonged absence from the United States;

(d) An officially declared disaster; or

(e) Financial hardship; and

(2) The licensee attempted to meet the requirements.

B. A licensee's failure to obtain the required continuing education units on or before the end of the 6-month extension shall result in the licensee's inability to practice as an environmental health specialist in the State.

C. If a licensee cannot obtain the required continuing education units on or before the end of the 6-month extension, the licensee may submit an application for inactive status.

D. A licensee's failure to obtain the required continuing education units within the 6-month extension period or to submit an inactive status application shall result in the license being placed on non-renewed status.

Administrative History

Effective date:

Regulations .01 and .02 adopted as an emergency provision effective January 3, 2013 (40:6 Md. R. 469); adopted permanently effective April 15, 2013 (40:7 Md. R. 612)

Regulation .01C, E amended effective November 9, 2015 (42:22 Md. R. 1379); April 23, 2018 (45:8 Md. R. 422)

Regulation .02B amended effective November 9, 2015 (42:22 Md. R. 1379)

Regulation .03 adopted effective March 13, 2017 (44:5 Md. R. 294)

Regulation .04 adopted effective April 23, 2018 (45:8 Md. R. 422)