

**CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION**

**RECIPROCITY INSTRUCTIONS**

**Although California does not offer reciprocity with any other state for registered environmental health specialists or registered sanitarians we welcome qualified applicants to obtain registration in California. The following instructions will apply to all applicants:**

1. Complete application form (Print or Type) and return with a \$95 check or money order payable to the Environmental Health Specialist Registration FUND (no cash). The application fee is NOT REFUNDABLE.
2. Apply to CPS HR Consulting (CPS) for evaluation of domestic transcripts; foreign transcripts must be approved by an approved foreign transcript evaluation service. Refer to the list of approved foreign credential evaluation services.
3. You may submit applications to CPS or foreign transcript evaluator, concurrently with your application to the REHS Program.
4. CPS charges \$245.25 for the evaluation of domestic transcripts. This may be paid with a money order, cashier's check or credit card. Foreign evaluators each have their own fee structure.
5. MAIL REHS APPLICATION, FEE and TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION to:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program  
MS 7404  
P.O. BOX 997377  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95899-7377

6. NOTIFY THIS OFFICE OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS. Failure to respond to written inquiries could result inactivation of your application.
7. CPS can be reached at:

CPS HR Consulting  
241 Lathrop Way  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
Phone: (916) 471-3152  
Website: [www.cps.ca.gov/takeatest/envhealth](http://www.cps.ca.gov/takeatest/envhealth)  
Email: [edelacruz@cps.ca.gov](mailto:edelacruz@cps.ca.gov)

Once you have completed the transcript evaluation process with CPS HR Consulting or a foreign transcript evaluator as described in the general application instructions above, you will be categorized based on the level of education you have completed ranging from Option I - IV.

The educational requirements for registration of environmental health specialists shall be a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a department approved educational institution or an educational institution of collegiate grade listed in the directory of accredited institutions of postsecondary education compiled by the American Council on Education, with coursework prescribed as follows:

**OPTION I**

30 semester or 45 quarter basic science units including each of the following:

- General Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory
- General Physics Lecture and Laboratory **or**
- Organic Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory
- General Microbiology Lecture and Laboratory
- General Biological Science Lecture and Laboratory
- Calculus or College Algebra

**OPTION II**

45 semester or 68 quarter basic science units including the following:

Three of the required science courses shall include a laboratory section:

- General Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- General Physics
- General Microbiology
- General Biological Science
- Calculus or College Algebra

**OPTION III**

30 semester or 45 quarter basic science units including each of the following:

- General Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory
- General Physics Lecture and Laboratory **or**
- Organic Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory
- General Microbiology Lecture and Laboratory
- General Biological Science Lecture and Laboratory
- Calculus or College Algebra

**Plus**

Three semester or four quarter unit courses in each of the following:

- Epidemiology
- Statistics
- Public Administration or Environmental Health Administration

**And**

10 semester or 15 quarter units in environmental health science including one or more of the following:

water quality, waste management, food and consumer protection, housing and institution sanitation, vector control, recreational health, air quality, milk and dairy products, occupational health, electromagnetic radiation, noise control, toxicology, soil science, or land use development.

**OPTION IV**

45 semester or 68 quarter basic science units including the following:

Three of the required science courses shall include a laboratory:

- General Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

General Physics  
 General Microbiology  
 General Biological Science  
 Calculus or College Algebra

**Plus**

Three semester or four quarter unit courses in each of the following:

Epidemiology

Statistics

Public Administration or Environmental Health Administration

**And**

10 semester or 15 quarter units in environmental health science including one or more of the following:

water quality, waste management, food and consumer protection, housing and institution sanitation, vector control, recreational health, air quality, milk and dairy products, occupational health, electromagnetic radiation, noise control, toxicology, soil science, or land use development.

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>Total Experience</b>	<b>Training Hours Primary Elements</b>	<b>Training Hours Secondary Elements</b>	<b>Total Training Hours</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>18 months</b>	<b>120 each = 360 total</b>	<b>240 total</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>12 months</b>	<b>90 each = 270 total</b>	<b>180 total</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>9 months</b>	<b>60 each = 180 total</b>	<b>120 total</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>6 months</b>	<b>40 each = 120 total</b>	<b>81 total</b>	<b>201</b>

1. Based on your transcript evaluation you will need to document adequate work experience in the practice of environmental health for a public or non-profit agency. You will need 18, 12, 9 or 6 months work experience depending on your educational background. This can be accomplished by submitting a letter from your employer that describes your job duties, responsibilities and length of full-time employment.
2. You will also need to demonstrate that you have the required training hours in at least six program areas. The first three areas must be from the following list:
  - Food Protection
  - Solid waste management
  - Liquid waste management
  - Water supply
  - Housing and institutions
  - Bathing places
  - Vector control
  - Hazardous materials management
  - Underground storage tanks

The second three elements may include any other basic element, any of the elements not selected above, and/or any of the following:

- Air sanitation
- Safety and accident prevention

- Land development and use
- Disaster sanitation
- Electromagnetic radiation
- Milk and dairy products
- Noise control
- Occupational health

Include in the letter from your employer verification that your training meets the minimum requirement. Training hours include a minimum of 20 hours per month field instruction with direct supervision by a REHS in the first 6 months as well as independent time with adequate supervision and guidance.

Training opportunities provided by private companies, such as “HAZWOPPER”, food safety certification, or Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) are acceptable training options, as are training venues provided by state and local public entities. Training activities may include the following inspection and reporting techniques:

- joint initial inspections to observe the inspection process;
- conducting inspections with direct one-to-one REHS supervision;
- conducting independent inspections followed by review and consultation with REHS oversight;
- collecting environmental samples;
- operating monitoring equipment, including calibration and cleaning;
- documenting conditions with properly identified photographs;
- reviewing facility records for required documentation;
- writing reports and formal correspondence;
- phone calls and personal interviews;
- use of “chain of custody;”
- issuing Notices of Violation, Compliance Orders and Citations;
- making referrals to other agencies;
- researching and reviewing statutes, regulations and code sections;
- conducting disease surveillance; and
- Investigating nuisance, public or environmental complaints.

**California has recently adopted regulations requiring 24 hours of continuing education for each two year renewal period.**