



***REHS Program Update
September 2010***

Continuing Education

The regulations for continuing education were adopted last fall and became **effective January 2010**. If your registration expires this year in 2010 you will have the next two years, until December 2012, to accrue **the 24 contact hours** of continuing education. The regulations require that you **keep copies of the training certificates for courses that you have completed** for a minimum of five years. **Approved courses must be accredited** by an Accreditation Agency (AA) approved by CDPH. A list of approved AAs is maintained on the REHS web site. Prior to enrolling, check that the course provider is accredited by an AA.

What is a contact hour?

A contact hour is equivalent to 50-60 minutes of participation in an organized learning experience. Some courses are not measured in "contact hours" but in college units or Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The number of contact hours per unit can vary among colleges and training providers but generally

1~ CEU =10 contact hours;

1~ quarter unit=10 contact hours;

1~ semester unit= 15 contact hours.

Can I be exempted from meeting the continuing education requirement?

REHSs may seek exemption from the continuing education requirements for registration renewal, on the grounds of emergency or hardship, by applying to the Department in writing and setting forth the reasons why such exemption should be granted. The Department will review each request to determine if it

qualifies for exemption from the continuing education requirement.

Who will approve the continuing education courses?

CDPH has approved 19 AAs who are responsible for approving and monitoring course providers. AAs accredit providers and approve continuing education courses for CA REHS. Once course providers are accredited they are called Recognized Providers (RPs). RPs provide approved training for the REHS.

What subjects will be approved for continuing education?

While this is not an exclusive list, topics and subject matter appropriate for REHS continuing education include: food protection, solid waste management, liquid waste management, medical waste management, water supply, housing and institutions, bathing places, vector control, hazardous materials management, underground tanks, air sanitation, safety and accident prevention, land development and use, disaster sanitation, electromagnetic radiation, milk and dairy products, noise control, occupational health, rabies and animal disease control, recreational health, bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, lead poisoning, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, epidemiology and communicable diseases, public health, environmental health administration and management.

Is my employer responsible for paying the registration fees for continuing education coursework?

An employer may choose to pay registration fees, based on a contract agreement with an employee union. However, there is no statutory or regulatory requirement for an employer to pay for registration fees for continuing education.

Are existing continuing education courses required to be reviewed and approved?

Yes, all continuing education courses are required to be accredited through an AA and taken during the biennial renewal period for credit toward registration requirements.

How do I verify course completion?

At the time of your biennial renewal, you will be required to submit a form, on which you will list all of your completed courses. You must keep copies of certificates and documentation of completed courses for at least five (5) years.

Do existing continuing education trainers have to be approved as Recognized Providers?

Yes, existing continuing education trainers need to apply with an AA and become a RP before their coursework

will be accepted as meeting the registration requirements for continuing education.

Are retired REHS required to meet the continuing education requirements?

No; however, if a retired REHS returns to active status they must meet the continuing education requirements by completing 24 contact hours of continuing education and pay the biennial renewal fees.

Additional information on the continuing education requirement can be found on the Registration Program web site: CDPH.ca.gov/REHS.

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PROGRAM.***

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REHS Statistics as of August 2010

Active and current REHS	3117
Retired REHS	441
Suspended REHS *1	433
New REHS in 2008 *2	163
Certifiable applicants*3	1918
Total	3991

*1 Currently suspended for failure to pay registration fees
*2 Included with active REHS
*3 Applicants who meet the minimum educational requirements

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