

# CHAPTER 50

## South Carolina State Board of Examiners for Registered Environmental Sanitarians

(Statutory Authority: 1976 Code § 40-61-20)

### ARTICLE 1 CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

#### **50-10. Purpose.**

This regulation is to establish a Continuing Education Program in the State of South Carolina for Registered Environmental Sanitarians in order to expand their knowledge and to meet the requirements for Continuing Education as provided by Section 40-61-70 of the CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976 as amended.

Each program of Continuing Education should:

- A. Update knowledge of pertinent technical and professional developments.
- B. Provide for interdisciplinary learning.
- C. Extend the spectrum of professional capabilities and opportunities.
- D. Facilitate personal contributions to advancement of the profession of Registered Environmental Sanitarians.

#### **50-20. Definitions.**

1. *Board* shall be defined as the Board of Examiners for Registered Environmental Sanitarians.
2. *Continuing Education* shall be defined as participation in an organized educational experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction.
3. *Contact Hour* shall be defined as fifty (50) to sixty (60) minutes of approved instruction.
4. *Continuing Education Units (CEU's)* shall be determined by the Board. One CEU shall be the equivalent of ten (10) contact hours of approved instruction.
5. *Environmental Sanitarian* shall be defined as a person trained and qualified to carry out educational, inspectional, and supervisory duties in environmental health and control programs and who is registered.
6. *Accredited Educational Institution* shall be defined as a full-time educational institution, such as colleges, universities, and technical institutions.
7. *Approved Training Agency* shall be defined as any other educational opportunity approved by the Board and offered by one other than an accredited educational institution, such as educational units of governmental or industrial agencies and professional associations.

#### **50-30. Requirements.**

All Environmental Sanitarians who wish to renew their certificates of registration shall earn at least two (2) Continuing Education Units (CEU's) every two (2) years. Up to but not more than two (2) CEU's earned in one two-year period may be carried over to the next ensuing two-year period.

#### **50-40. Course Approval Procedures.**

- A. Courses offered by an accredited educational institution.

1. Credit courses offered by an accredited educational institution which relate to the field of Environmental Health are generally acceptable, but each course and subject matter must be submitted for review and approval by the Board.

2. Other courses, workshops, seminars, and other similar educational opportunities, which are offered by an accredited educational institution are acceptable for review if:

a. The educational institution applies for and obtains approval from the Board, or

b. The attendee applies and obtains approval for attending the course and

c. All courses, workshops, seminars, and other similar educational opportunities have an evaluation procedure concerning the relative merits of the course to the profession, a copy of which evaluation shall be provided to the Board.

B. Courses offered by an approved training agency.

1. Courses, workshops, seminars, and other similar educational opportunities which are offered by a training agency may be acceptable for credit if:

a. The training agency applies and obtains approval for the course or program of instruction from the Board, or

b. The attendee submits an application for approval of a course within sixty (60) days before completion. Before awarding credit, the Board will review the course or program of instruction.

c. When an approved course is repeated annually or more frequently and program content, speaker qualifications, and time remain essentially the same, it is not necessary to request approval again. When an approved a course is repeated, a copy of that course agenda shall be submitted prior to the date on which the course is offered. If significant changes occur in any of the areas mentioned, it is necessary to submit the changes involved and request approval again.

2. All courses, workshops, seminars and other similar educational opportunities, have an evaluation procedure

C. Other Courses.

1. Registered Environmental Sanitarians may request CEU's for courses not previously approved by the Board and not provided by an approved training agency. Applications must be submitted within sixty (60) days of completion of a course. CEU's will be granted if an application adequately documents that a course contains acceptable subject matter and meets the requirements of the Board.

2. The training materials submitted to the Board must include a test which is to be returned by the applicant to the training agency for grading. A simple pass/fail score of 70% of questions being correctly answered will be satisfactory. In the event that such a test is not available at the time application for approval is to be submitted, the test should be submitted as soon as it becomes available. Test scores should also be submitted at their earliest availability.

3. Following review of the training materials by the Board a letter stating the number of CEU's approved will be sent to the training agency.

4. The training agency shall provide the applicant with a letter or certificate attesting to the successful completion of the home study course.

5. The training agency should maintain records regarding the successful completion of training materials prepared in accordance with this criterion for at least three years.

## **50-50. Subject Matter.**

A. Acceptable subject matter.

Any subject matter which improves the practice and develops the skill of the Registered Environmental Sanitarian is acceptable for CEU. Such subject matter includes, but is not limited to:

1. Diseases and injuries caused by environmental factors and the applicable prevention techniques.

2. Administrative law.

3. The utilizing of resources in the collection, arrangement, and interpretation of data.

4. Environmental health administration.

5. The behavioral sciences.
  6. New or substantially revised environmental health laws, rules, and regulations.
  7. Functional fields of environmental health including, but not limited to, air quality, food protection, hazardous substances and product safety, housing, institutional environmental health and safety, radiation protection, recreational areas and waters, solid waste management, vector control, water quality and water supply.
  8. Environmental health planning.
  9. Communication skills.
  10. Management courses.
- B. Unacceptable subject matter.
1. Courses, workshops, and seminars that have as their exclusive or primary purpose the review of existing legislation, rules, and regulations are not acceptable for CEU's.
  2. Field training is not acceptable unless it is a field trip in conjunction with a lecture.

### **50–60. Formats for Instruction.**

- A. Acceptable formats.
1. Workshops
  2. Seminars
  3. Courses
  4. Symposiums
  5. Lectures
  6. Home study courses
  7. Field training when combined with any of the above.
- B. Unacceptable formats.
1. Community activities
  2. Reading of journals or books

### **50–70. Determination of Contact Hours and CEU's.**

- A. Only complete instructional hours will be considered in assigning CEU's.
- B. Home study courses.

The number of CEU's is based on the value recommended by the sponsor but determined by the Board for each course.

### **50–80. Out-Of-State-Credit.**

If a registrant earns CEU's as a requirement under the sanitarian registration or licensure laws of a state with which South Carolina has reciprocity, such credit may be transferred to South Carolina upon showings as the Board, in the exercise of its discretion, may deem appropriate.

### **50–90. Acceptable Proof of Attendance/Completion.**

A. Responsibility for documenting the required Contact Hours for CEU's rest with the individual Registered Environmental Sanitarian. Evidence to support the Contact Hours shall be retained by the Registered Environmental Sanitarian and submitted when application is made for the certificate of registration renewal.

- B. Credit courses.
1. Transcripts or grade card showing a passing grade.
  2. Audited courses (i.e., no grade) requires proof of attendance.

C. Home study courses.

Certificate of completion or similar evidence as the Board may deem appropriate.

D. Other approved training courses.

Certificate of attendance or similar evidence as the Board may deem appropriate.