



Ohio State Board of Sanitarian Registration

77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Sanitarian Registration in Ohio

What is environmental health?

Section 4736.15 of the Ohio Revised Code mandates registration for those people practicing environmental health in accordance with Section 4736.01 to 4736.17 of the Revised Code.

The practice of environmental health means consultation, instruction, investigation, inspection, or evaluation by an employee of a city health district, a general health district, the environmental protection agency, the department of health, or the department of agriculture requiring specialized knowledge, training, and experience in the field of environmental health science, with the primary purpose of improving or conducting administration or enforcement under any of the following:

Chapters of the Ohio Revised Code: 911 (Agriculture – Bakeries), 913 (Agriculture – Canneries), 917 (Agriculture – Dairies), 3717 (Retail Food Establishments – Inspections), 3721 (Health – Nursing Facilities), 3729 (Recreational Vehicle Parks, Recreation Camps, Combined & Temporary Park-Camps), 3733 (Manufactured Home Parks; Recreational Vehicle Parks; Recreation Camps; Park-Camps; Marinas; Agricultural Labor Camps), 3734 (Pertaining to Solid Waste);

Sections of the Ohio Revised Code: 955.26 (Rabies Quarantine), 3701.344 (Health – Private Water Systems), 3707.01 (Nuisance Abatement), 3707.03 (School Nuisances), 3707.38 to 3707.99 (Milk Producers, Milk Haulers, Milk Plants, Dairies, etc...), 3715.21 (Retail Frozen Dessert Freezers);

Rules adopted under section 3701.34 of the Revised Code pertaining to home sewage, rabies control, or swimming pools; rules adopted under section 3701.935 of the Revised Code for school health and safety network inspections and rules adopted under section 3707.26 of the Revised Code for sanitary inspections.

The practice of environmental health does not include sampling, testing, controlling of vectors, reporting of observations, or other duties that do not require application of specialized knowledge and skills in environmental health science performed under the supervision of a registered sanitarian.

What are the requirements to become a sanitarian in training (SIT)?

To be eligible for registration as a sanitarian in training, you must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university including 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours of Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Math, or Statistics approved by the Board. These courses must be applicable to the practice of environmental health and may not be remedial or college preparatory in nature. Science courses approved by the Board may include more than one area of science as specified above.

SIT is a limited registration which requires that the registrant engage in supervised practice of environmental health. The supervision requirements are outlined in rule 4736-15-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Section 4736.10 of the Ohio Revised Code states, in part “A sanitarian-in-training shall apply for registration as a sanitarian within three years of his registration as a sanitarian-in-training. The board may extend the registration of any sanitarian-in-training who furnishes, in writing, sufficient cause for not applying for registration as a sanitarian within the three-year period.”

Extensions of SIT registration are limited and must be approved by the Board. As an SIT, a registrant may engage in the practice of environmental health for a maximum of five years. Within that five year time period, the registrant must take and pass either the PES Environmental Health Proficiency Examination or the NEHA examination with at least a 70% and complete the environmental health work requirement specified in Section 4736.08 of the Ohio Revised Code.

What are the requirements to become a registered sanitarian (RS) or to advance from SIT to RS?

To be eligible for registration as a registered sanitarian, you must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university including 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours of Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Math, or Statistics approved by the Board. These courses must be applicable to the practice of environmental health and may not be remedial or college preparatory in nature. Science courses approved by the Board may include more than one area of science as specified above.

You must also provide proof of at least two years of full time work experience in environmental health. If you have a degree higher than a bachelor's or received your bachelor's from an accredited environmental health program, which included an internship, only one year of full time work experience in environmental health is required.

Registrants must take and pass either the PES Environmental Health Proficiency Examination or the NEHA examination with at least a 70%. The Board offers the PES examination three times a year, typically in March, May, and October. SIT's may take the examination any time after the Board approves their application for registration; however, SIT's are not eligible to apply for advancement until they have fulfilled the work experience requirement.

What are the fees for registration, renewal of my SIT or RS, or the examination?

Currently, the fees charged by the Sanitarian Registration Board are as follows:

- Application for SIT or Advancement: \$80.00
- Application for RS or Reciprocity: \$160.00
- Annual Renewal Fee: \$90.00
- Additional Late Renewal Fee: \$75.00
- Examination Registration: \$165.00(pencil/paper)/\$265.00(online)

Is there a continuing education requirement to maintain my registration?

Yes. All registrants must complete at least 18 hours of Board approved continuing education in the twelve months immediately preceding the expiration date of their registration. All courses must be either given by an approved training agency or submitted by the registrant for Board approval. Please review rule 4736-11-06 of the Ohio Administrative Code to review the requirements for continuing education submission and approval.

Where can I find information on the Board members, meeting and examination dates, forms, and approved continuing education courses?

You can visit the Board website at <http://sanitarian.ohio.gov>, contact the Executive Secretary via email at stephanie.youst@exchange.state.oh.us, or call the Board office at (614) 466-1772. The Board office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.