

# ***DECONTAMINATION SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM*** **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The Decontamination Specialist Certification Program is designed to assist in helping ensure that personnel in charge of decontamination are trained to perform cleanups and knowledgeable of established decontamination standards; to develop methods whereby an applicant can demonstrate competency and obtain certification to become a certified decontamination specialist; to protect the public health and the environment; and to provide for the health and safety of personnel involved in decontamination activities.

The Certification rules (R311-500 Utah Administrative Code) apply to individuals who perform decontamination of property on the contamination list specified in Section 19-6-903(3)(b) of the Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act. The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) developed a website which contains important information relating to the Certification Program. The website is located at: <https://deq.utah.gov/environmental-response-and-remediation/cercla-comprehensive-environmental-response-compensation-and-liability-act/methamphetamine-decontamination-specialist-certification-program>.

## **Initial Application and Fee**

An initial application must be completed and submitted to the DERR for approval preferably up to 7 working days prior to the exam so that the application and fee can be processed. Exam schedules are provided online. Applicants will coordinate their exam date with DERR. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant along with the application, certification fee and reason for the return.

The application and certification fee is \$225.00 for a two-year certification period. The required fee may accompany the application, or be paid online at <https://deq.utah.gov/certification/derr-payment-portal-shopping-cart>. The fee is not refundable. The initial application is available on the DERR's Decontamination Specialist Certification Program website.

Please send the application and fee to:

Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation  
P.O. Box 144840  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
Attn: Leigh Anderson

## Eligibility for Initial Certification

In accordance with R311-500-5, the following eligibility requirements shall be met prior to certification.

- Application and Fee. The requirements are described in the Initial Application and Fee Section.
- Health and Safety Training. Each applicant must be certified and meet Occupational Safety and Health Agency requirements in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120 and any other applicable safety training related to the code, as required by federal and state law. Documentation of this training should be included with the application.
- Proof of Citizenship. Each applicant must complete the Proof of Citizenship Form in accordance with Utah Code Ann. § 63G-11-104. The completed form should be included with the application.
- Examination. Each applicant must successfully pass a comprehensive exam administered under the direction of the Director as specified in R311-500.

To help prepare applicants for the exam, the DERR has developed a training manual titled *Decontamination Specialist Training Manual* (2005, updated 2022). The manual is available on-line at this link: <https://documents.deq.utah.gov/environmental-response-and-remediation/cercla/voluntary-cleanup-brownfields/DERR-2012-014632.pdf>.

Individuals may review this manual prior to taking the exam. The exam will be based on R392-600, Illegal Drug Operations Decontamination Standards adopted by the Department of Health, R311-500 and R311-501 Decontamination Specialist Certification Program rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Quality and the contents of this manual. An individual is not required to review the manual prior to taking the exam, but it is recommended. An individual may also obtain training, if necessary, to help pass the exam, although the Department of Environmental Quality does not specifically sponsor a course.

A two-hour time limit is allowed for completion of the closed-book exam (Each applicant must show picture identification to the exam administrator. In addition, a number two pencil is required for the exam). The minimum passing score is 80%. If an applicant does not pass the exam, a re-take exam must be scheduled with the exam proctor within one month of the date of the initial exam. To take this exam, an applicant is not required to submit a new application, but will be required to pay a \$100.00 fee to cover the cost of the additional testing. In the event the applicant does not pass the re-take exam, the individual must wait six months prior to submitting a new application ( R311-500-4).

For exam dates and location, please see the schedule on the web page located at <https://documents.deq.utah.gov/environmental-response-and-remediation/cercla/exam-schedule-and-location.pdf>. An applicant who misses an exam will automatically be scheduled to take the next available exam. The individual will not be required to submit

a new application or fee. If the individual misses the next scheduled exam, the individual will automatically forfeit the application and fee and will be required to re-apply for Certification.

## **Certification**

Initial Certification for all Certificate holders shall be effective for a period of two years from the date of issuance, unless revoked before the expiration date pursuant to R311-500-9. Each applicant who submits an application under R311-500-4 and obtains Certification under R311-500 agrees to comply with the Performance Standards outlined in the rule. Failure to comply could be cause for the Department of Environmental Quality to revoke the Certificate as specified in R311-500-9.

## **Renewal Application and Fee**

A renewal application must be completed and submitted to the DERR for approval preferably up to 7 working days prior to the exam so that the application and fee can be processed. Exam schedules are provided online. Applicants will coordinate their exam date with DERR. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant along with the application, certification fee and reason for the return. A Certified Decontamination Specialist may apply to renew their Certificate up to three months prior to the expiration date on the document. The Certificate must be renewed prior to the expiration date.

The renewal application and renewal certification fee is \$225.00 for a two-year Certification period. The required fee shall accompany the application. The fee is not refundable. The renewal application is available on the DERR's Decontamination Specialist Certification Program website.

Please send the application and fee to:

Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation  
P.O. Box 144840  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
Attn: Leigh Anderson

## **Eligibility for Renewal Certification**

In accordance with R311-500-7, the following requirements shall be met prior to the expiration date of the current Certificate.

- Application and Fee. The requirements are described in the Renewal Application and Fee Section.

- Health and Safety Training. Applicants will need to demonstrate current health and safety training in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120. Documentation of this training should be included with the application.
- Proof of Citizenship. Each applicant must complete the Proof of Citizenship Form in accordance with Utah Code Ann. § 63G-11-104. The completed form should be included with the application.
- Examination. Each applicant must successfully pass a comprehensive renewal exam administered under the direction of the Director as specified in R311-500.

The renewal exam will be based on R392-600, Illegal Drug Operations Decontamination Standards adopted by the Department of Health, R311-500 and R311-501 Decontamination Specialist Certification Program rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Quality and the contents of the *Decontamination Specialist Training Manual* (2005). An individual is not required to review the manual prior to taking the renewal exam, but it is recommended. A two-hour time limit is allowed for completion of the closed-book exam (Each applicant must show picture identification to the exam administrator. In addition, a number two pencil is required for the exam). The minimum passing score is 80%.

For exam dates and location, please see the schedule on the website located at <https://documents.deq.utah.gov/environmental-response-and-remediation/cercla/exam-schedule-and-location.pdf>. Applicants will coordinate their exam date with DERR. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant along with the application, certification fee and reason for the return.

## **Renewal Certification**

If the Executive Secretary determines that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of R311-500-7 and will comply with the Performance Standards of R311-500-8, the Executive Secretary shall reissue the Certificate to the applicant. If the Executive Secretary determines that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements described in R311-500-7 or will not comply or has not complied with the Performance Standards of R311-500-8, the Executive Secretary may issue a notice to deny Certification in a manner consistent with R311-500-9. Renewal Certificates shall be valid for two years and shall be subject to revocation under R311-500-9.

## **Performance Standards**

Each applicant who submits an application under R311-500-4 and R311-500-7 and obtains Certification under R311-500 agrees to comply with the Performance Standards outlined in the rule. Failure to comply could be cause for the Department of Environmental Quality to revoke the Certificate as specified in R311-500-9.

To comply with Performance Standards, the Certified Decontamination Specialist:

- (1) Shall be certified prior to engaging in any decontamination activities for the purpose of removing the contaminated property from the list referenced in Section 19-6-903(3)(b) and display the certificate upon request;
- (2) Shall report to the local health department the location of any property that is the subject of decontamination work by the decontamination specialist;
- (3) Shall file a workplan with the local health department;
- (4) Shall perform work in accordance with the workplan;
- (5) Shall perform work meeting applicable local, state and federal laws, including certification and licensing requirements for performing construction work;
- (6) Shall oversee and supervise all decontamination activities and ensure any person(s) assisting with decontamination work at contaminated property meets Occupational Safety and Health Agency hazardous materials (HAZWOPER) safety training requirements in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120;
- (7) Shall disclose to any person(s) assisting with decontamination at contaminated property that work is being performed in a clandestine drug laboratory, inform the person(s) of the potential risk associated with this type of environment and ensure that the person(s) wears the necessary personal protective equipment as established by the decontamination specialist;
- (8) Shall make all decisions regarding decontamination and be the only individual conducting confirmation sampling;
- (9) Shall follow scientifically sound and accepted sampling procedures;
- (10) Shall submit a Final Report to the local Health Department, which includes an affidavit stating that the property has been decontaminated to the standards outlined in R392-600;
- (11) Shall maintain a current address and phone number on file with the Division;
- (12) Shall not participate in fraudulent, unethical, deceitful or dishonest activity with respect to performance of work for which certification is granted; and
- (13) Shall not participate in any other activities regulated under R311-500 without meeting all requirements of that certification program.

## **Expired or Revoked Certificate**

Any individual who is not a Certified Decontamination Specialist on the date the renewal certification examination is given because the applicant's certification was revoked or expired prior to completing a renewal application must successfully meet the application and eligibility criteria for initial certification as specified in R311-500-4 and R311-500-5 prior to issuance of a Certificate.

## **Preemption**

Certification to work as a Certified Decontamination Specialist does not relieve an individual from any requirement to obtain additional licenses or certificates in different specialties to the extent required by other agencies whose jurisdiction and authority may overlap the decontamination work. The Certified Decontamination Specialist shall obtain the additional licenses or certificates prior to performing the work for which the

additional license or certificate is required. The Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act Decontamination Specialist Certification Program rules do not preempt or supercede rules or standards promulgated by other regulatory programs in the State of Utah.

### **Certified Decontamination Specialist List**

An individual who obtains Certification as a Certified Decontamination Specialist will be placed on the Certified Decontamination Specialist List. The list is updated frequently and available to the public on-line at: <https://documents.deq.utah.gov/environmental-response-and-remediation/services/DERR-2017-006702.pdf>.

### **Further Information**

For further information on R311-500 and the Decontamination Specialist Certification Program, please contact Leigh Anderson or Bill Rees at (801) 536-4100.