

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND REMEDIATION  
Decontamination Specialist Certification Program  
Frequently Asked Questions**

***How do I apply to become a Certified Decontamination Specialist?***

The application procedures and eligibility requirements are outlined in R311-500, Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act, Decontamination Specialist Certification Program rules. Please refer to the following link for a copy of the rules and further information about Certification requirements:

<https://adminrules.utah.gov/public/search/R311-500/Current%20Rules>

***Is there a study guide to help me prepare for the exams noted in R311-500?***

The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) has developed a training manual titled Decontamination Specialist Training Manual (2005, last update 2022). The manual is available on-line at:

<https://documents.deq.utah.gov/environmental-response-and-remediation/cercla/voluntary-cleanup-brownfields/DERR-2012-014632.pdf>. Individuals are encouraged to review this document prior to taking the exams noted in R311-500.

***Am I required to attend a specific OSHA health and safety training course?***

The DERR does not specify a particular course. The applicant may choose their own course provided it meets the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120. All certificates of completion must be included with the initial and renewal application.

***Is there a cut off date for certification as a Decontamination Specialist?***

There is no date specified in R311-500. However, a Decontamination Specialist performing decontamination activities shall be certified prior to engaging in any decontamination activities for the purpose of removing property from the contamination list referenced in Section 19-6-903(3)(b).

***What are the Performance Standards in R311-500-8?***

The Performance Standards are a series of standards that govern how work is performed during the certification period. Failure to comply with the standards may be cause to revoke the Certification as specified in R311-500-9.

***Are there standards promulgated in Utah for methamphetamine cleanup?***

The Department of Health established sampling, decontamination and reporting requirements in R392-600, Illegal Drug Operations Decontamination Standards. Please refer to the following link: <https://adminrules.utah.gov/public/search/R392-600.%20%20Illegal/Current%20Rules>

In addition, some counties or local health departments may have independent authority to require cleanup based on occupancy of the structure or other health and building codes. The DERR recommends that any individual involved in the cleanup of contaminated property comply with the

current rules and regulations and work with the local health department to ensure regulatory requirements are met and the cleanup is protective of human health and the environment.

***How is an applicant determined to be eligible for initial and renewal certification as a Decontamination Specialist?***

The DERR's role in issuing a certificate to an applicant is to assess whether the applicant can predictably be relied upon to honestly and competently sample, decontaminate and report results. The DERR reviews state required identification, the application, the test, and eligibility criteria in determining whether to issue a certificate. The DERR does not automatically exclude an applicant due to the presence of one of the factors listed in R311-500-9 that may be considered in denying or revoking a certificate. However, the DERR may consider those factors when there is an indication that the applicant is unable or unlikely to perform in an honest and competent manner.

***If a property is not a clandestine lab or meth lab, what regulations am I required to follow as a Certified Decontamination Specialist?***

The Utah Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act is not confined to properties where illegal drug manufacturing has occurred. Effective July 1, 2009, the Utah Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act was amended to expand the definition of "contaminated" to include property polluted as a result of the use, production, or presence of methamphetamine. See Utah Code Ann. § 19-6-902(3)(b). As a Certified Decontamination Specialist, you are required to follow state law which includes: Section 19-6-904 (Utah Code Ann.) Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act; Rule 392-600 (Utah Admin. Code) Illegal Drug Operations Decontamination Standards; as well as the regulations promulgated by the counties or local health departments.