

REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS (REHS)/ REGISTERED SANITARIAN (RS)

<https://www.neha.org/rehs-rs-credential>

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CERTIFIED REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST?

The REHS/RS professionals with this credential hold competency in various environmental health topics including, but not limited to, vector control, water quality, hazardous materials, air quality, and built environment. They direct and train personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental situations and provide education to their communities. Credential holders ensure communities comply with local, state, and federal environmental health regulations.

WHO SHOULD PURSUE THE REHS/RS CREDENTIAL?

The REHS/RS is for individuals who work in the environmental health field such as Environmental Health Specialists, Inspectors, and Sanitarians.

ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE REHS/RS (Follow one of three tracks):

1. Environmental health degree track

- Hold a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, or PhD from a college or university accredited in the United States **OR**
- Hold a degree in Environmental Health
- Have attended an EHAC-Accredited school and degree program:
 - i. EHAC-Accredited [Environmental Health Bachelor's Degree Programs](#)
 - ii. EHAC-Accredited [Environmental Health Master's Degree or PhD](#)

Proof of work experience is not required in this track.

2. Bachelor's degree track

- Must hold a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or PhD from a college or university accredited in the United States in **any** subject
 - Must have earned 30 semester hours (or 45 quarter hours) of college credit in basic science coursework. *Basic sciences include life sciences, natural sciences, physical sciences, or health sciences (note: social science courses such as sociology or psychology do not count toward this credit)*
 - Must have earned credit for a college-level math or statistics class
- Must have two or more years of full-time, paid experience working in environmental health such as:
General environmental health (including inspections, environmental microbiology, and contamination control), food protection, wastewater, solid and hazardous waste, potable water, inspections of facilities, vectors and pests, institutions and licensed establishments, swimming pool inspections, radiation, occupational

safety and health, healthy housing, indoor air quality, disaster and emergency planning, and environmental health issues related to climate change.

3. In training track

This is for candidates with less than two years of qualifying work experience. Proof of work experience is not required in this track.

- Hold a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or PhD from a college or university accredited in the United States in ***any*** subject
 - Have earned 30 semester hours (or 45 quarter hours) of college credit in basic science coursework. Basic sciences include life sciences, natural sciences, physical sciences, and health sciences (*note: social science courses such as sociology or psychology do not count toward this credit*)
 - Have earned credit for a college-level math or statistics class

Certificates for those who pass the exam in this track:

- Will receive a certificate that says "REHS/RS – In Training"
- Have three years to obtain two years of work experience. "In Training" status expires if work experience is not submitted within **three** years.
- Must submit work experience to us to qualify for the full REHS/RS

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications must be completed and submitted online for review at least two weeks prior to the exam date. Applications received less than two weeks prior to the planned exam date may require rescheduling the exam for another date.

A complete application includes:

- All official college transcripts. Transcripts must be provided in one of the following ways to be considered an official transcript:
 - Emailed from the school or transcript service to credentialing@neha.org (preferred)
 - In the sealed envelope from the college Registrar's Office/Transcript Office
- Work Experience Verification Form, unless applying for Track A or C
- Appropriate fees
- Third-party review if education is international

Applications are valid for one year from the date we receive them. If the test has not been taken within one year of applying, new application and fees must be submitted. Pearson VUE testing authorizations are valid for one year.

Application Cost: The cost for NEHA **members** is \$95 and for **non-members** is \$130.

Please check with NEHA for the latest application fee.

For more information, go to: [REHS/RS Credential Eligibility & Application](#)

TAKING THE REHS/RS EXAM

- **Testing at Pearson VUE**

Candidates must take the exam on the computer through Pearson VUE. Candidates can schedule the examination at their convenience at one of Pearson VUE's testing locations and receive unofficial exam scores immediately after the exam. To find a Pearson VUE testing center near you, please visit:

<https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/neha.html>

- When the exam application is approved, candidates will receive an authorization email from NEHA
- One to three days later the candidate will get an email from Pearson VUE c/o PTI with the PTI ID number and instructions for scheduling the exam at Pearson VUE. The PTI ID number is valid for one year.
- On test day, candidates must bring one form of identification (i.e., driver's license or passport) to the testing site.

To reschedule the testing date/time, contact Pearson VUE at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled test time. At least 24 hours' notice is required to cancel the exam without losing fees. Candidates must contact NEHA to pay fees and be authorized to reschedule.

Pearson VUE Cost: The cost for NEHA **Members** or **Non-Members** is \$140.

Examination Cost: The cost for NEHA **Members** is \$185 and for **Non-Members** is \$335.

Please check with NEHA for the latest exam schedule and costs.

To learn more about the NEHA exam and schedule:

<https://www.neha.org/rehs-rs-credential>

REHS CREDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

To maintain the REHS/RS credential, individuals must:

- Earn and submit a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education every two years
- Pay NEHA renewal fee every two years (\$130.00 for **members**; \$345.00 for **non-members**)
- Agree to and sign NEHA [Code of Ethics](#)

Please note: MHOA created this document with information that may be helpful to our members applying for REHS/RS certification. Specific questions about the REHS certification should be sent to support@neha.org.

MA REGISTERED SANITARIAN (RS)

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/105-cmr-802-registration-of-sanitarians/download>

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A REGISTERED SANITARIAN?

Massachusetts RS professionals specifically administer environmental and health projects, initiatives, and interventions for both public and private agencies in areas such as food protection and safety, water protection, air quality, noise, industrial and land pollution, sewage disposal, hazardous and toxic substances, solid waste management, institutional health, and other related environmental health topics.

WHO SHOULD PURSUE THE MA RS CREDENTIAL?

The MA RS credential is for individuals in a management position in local public health and supervises positions conducting inspections. This includes Directors, Assistant Directors, or Deputy Directors. It is also for Inspectors and Environmental Health Specialists.

CHECKLIST FOR RECEIVING MA RS CREDENTIAL

- Completed online application form: Health Professions Licensing Portal (<https://healthprofessionlicensing.mass.gov/login-register>)
- Notarized Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Acknowledgement Form
- Photo of Applicant (passport size)
- Passing score on the REHS/RS exam administered by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). The exam date must be within 36 months of the application date. Proof of active Certificate from NEHA will be required for an exam date over 36 months.
- Official transcript(s) -- emailed by endorser to RS.CHO@mass.gov
- Employer's certification – letter(s) of reference certifying the duties and length of your work experience
- Resume
- NON-Refundable certification **fee of \$66.00** paid with application submission online

Please note: MHOA created this document with information that may be helpful to our members applying for MA RS certification. Specific questions regarding the MA RS application process or credentialing requirements should be sent to the Workforce Development Credentialing Coordinator in the Office of Local and Regional Health at RS.CHO@Mass.gov.

REHS RESOURCES

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA):

<https://www.neha.org/>

NEHA Credentialing Handbook:

<https://www.neha.org/Images/resources/neha-credentialing-handbook.pdf>

Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian Credential:

<https://www.neha.org/rehs-rs-credential>

Study Resources for REHS Exam:

<https://www.neha.org/rehs-study-materials>

MA RS RESOURCES

Blueprint for Public Health Excellence:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/blueprint-for-public-health-excellence-recommendations-for-improved-effectiveness-and/download>

Check Credentials:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/check-a-credential>

Registered Sanitarians:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/registered-sanitarians>

Renewal for MA RS Credential:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/renew-a-credential>

Workforce Standards from Performance Standards for Local Public Health:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/workforce-standards>

MHOA created this document with information that may be helpful to our members applying for REHS/RS and/or MA RS certification. Specific questions about certification should be sent to their respective credentialing agencies noted above.