

3.16 WATER SAMPLER CERTIFICATION

- ❑ *Question: Will I collect drinking water samples as part of my job or to satisfy any legal requirements?*

Why do I need this certification?

This certification assures the reliability of the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) (SDWA) compliance samples submitted to state certified laboratories.

Performing the required sampling and testing of Public Water Systems (PWS) is the primary means of evaluating the safety of the drinking water supply.

The certification is for individuals in Maryland collecting SDWA compliance samples, including:

- Laboratory personnel
- Plant operators and superintendents
- County and state health department staff
- Other individuals who collect samples for PWSs.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this certification?

FEDERAL:

- [Safe Drinking Water Act](#)
- [40 Code of Federal Regulations 141.28](#)

STATE:

- [COMAR 26.08.05](#)
- Environment Article, Title 9 Subtitle 10

What is the process to get this certification?

1. Complete Water Sampler Class & examination
 - [Register though MRWA](#)
2. Upon passing the examination, the applicant is issued a certification card.
3. [For 1st time Applicants ONLY](#) – Complete Skills Test
 - Complete “**Hands-On Practicum**” demo
4. After completion, Sampler Certification Card issued.

Are there any other requirements?

- High school education
- No experience required

How long should I expect it to take to get the certification once I complete the certification class?

Certification cards will be distributed by MDE via US mail, upon receiving confirmation from MRWA.

Once I get this certification, how long will it last?

Maximum of three years.

Those who have been certified within the past three years are exempt from the practical exam.

Those who do not pass the examination, are required to repeat the class.

How much will this certification cost?

\$125 – Includes Sampler Certification Class, Exam, Skills Test (*for 1st time applicants only*), and Sampler Certification Card

MDE has subsidized the cost of the classes so that registration can be affordable to those who perform primacy-related work.

\$25 * – Discounted fee if you fit in either of the following categories:

- An employee or operator of a PWS in MD
- An employee of a State Agency of MD
- An employee of a laboratory certified for drinking water analysis by MDE
- An employee of a well drilling operation

Free * – For all employees of a County Environmental Health Department/Program and MDE employees

**Registration approval is subject for review. Please note that fraudulent information or misrepresentation may result in the revoking of certification by MDE.*

Who do I contact with additional questions?

[MRWA \(MD Rural Water Association\)](#)
(410) 489-5877 | training@md-rwa.org

[MDE \(MD Department of the Environment\)](#)
(410) 537-3729 | mde.labcertification@maryland.gov