1.10 INCINERATOR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING COURSE APPROVAL

- **Question:** Do I operate an incinerator that processes special medical wastes, industrial wastes, sewage sludge, municipal wastes or hazardous wastes?

- **Question:** Do I provide a training course for incinerator operators?

**Why do I need this approval?**

To ensure safety and protect the environment, all incinerator operators are required to be properly trained and certified prior to the operation of any incinerator. Incinerator operators must receive certification from a training course provider approved by the Department.

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

STATE: Environment Article, Section 2-406; COMAR 26.11.08.09.

**What is the process to get this approval?**

For incinerator operator certification:
1) Attend an approved training course.
2) Pass an examination administered by the training provider with at least a grade of 70%.
3) Upon successful completion of the examination, the incinerator operator will receive a certificate from either the Department or the training provider.

For training course approval:
1) Submit the training course package.
2) The Department will review the proposed training course and make recommendations.
3) Once the recommendations have been included, the Department will issue a "letter of approval".

**Are there any other requirements?**

There are four types of incinerator operator certifications:
1) **Special Medical Waste and Industrial Waste Incinerator Certification:** This certification requires the completion of a generalized course which has a three 8-hour day initial training course with an annual 8-hour recertification training. Currently, there are two approved training providers for this certification:
   - General Physics Corporation
   - Mac Hunter (800) 727-6677 or (410) 379-3650
   - University of Maryland at Baltimore
   - Pat Wolfe (410) 706-7207
2) **Sewage Sludge Incinerator Certification:** There is a three 8-hour day initial training requirement with an annual 8-hour recertification training which is usually conducted at the incinerator site.
3) **Municipal Waste Combustor Certification:** There is a five 8-hour day initial training requirement with an annual 8-hour recertification training which is usually conducted at the incinerator site.
4) **Hazardous Waste Incinerator Certification:** There is a five 8-hour day initial training requirement with an annual 8-hour recertification training which is usually conducted at the incinerator site.

**Training course approval:**
For certifications 2, 3, and 4 above, the Department approved training course may be given by either the company or a consultant.

**How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Approval</th>
<th>Turnaround Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incinerator operator</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>certification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training course approval</td>
<td>60 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Once I get this approval, how long will it last?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Approval</th>
<th>Term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incinerator operator</td>
<td>Must renew annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>certification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course approval</td>
<td>Must renew every two years</td>
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**How much will this approval cost?**

Training course approval: No fee.
However, the training entities charge fees to attend special medical waste incinerators and industrial waste incinerators training classes.

**Do I need to know any additional information?**

There is a 45-day grace period after the expiration date to renew the certification. Incinerator operator certifications are not transferable from one incinerator classification to another.

**Who do I contact with additional questions?**

Mitch Greger
Air Quality Compliance Program
Mitchell.Greger@maryland.gov
(410) 537-3231

Related link:
https://mde.maryland.gov/airpermits