

3.16 DRINKING WATER SAMPLER CERTIFICATION

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

Why do I need this approval?

This certification assures the reliability of the Safe Drinking Water Act compliance samples submitted to state certified laboratories. Performing the required sampling and testing of public water systems is the primary means of evaluating the safety of the drinking water supply.

The certification is for individuals collecting samples for Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance, including laboratory personnel, municipal and private water system operators and superintendents, county and state health department staff, and other individuals who collect samples for public drinking water systems. Due to limited class capacity, this certification will no longer be provided for individuals not specified above.

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

FEDERAL: Safe Drinking Water Act; 40 Code of Federal Regulations 141.28
STATE: Environment Article, Title 9 subtitle 10; COMAR 26.08.05.

What is the process to get this approval?

1) An applicant registers to attend a certification class. For class scheduling and registration at the Department, contact the Water Supply Program at (410) 537-3729.

Provide your name, company, phone number and previous certification number.

The following local county health departments also schedule classes: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, St. Mary's, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester. For class registration, please contact the county health department.

2) At the end of the four-hour certification class, an examination is given.

3) Upon passing the examination, the applicant is issued a certification card.

Are there any other requirements?

- High school education
- No experience required

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

Certification cards will be distributed by mail, upon passing the class.

Once I get this approval, 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. Staff in 12 counties are re-trained annually to offer the certification.

How much will this approval cost?

MDE has subsidized the cost of the classes so that registration can be affordable to those who perform primacy-related work. Fees are based on the 7 student categories below. Categories 1-6 require additional verifying information during registration.

1. An employee or operator of a public drinking water system in Maryland – \$25
2. An employee of a State Agency of Maryland – \$25
3. An employee of a laboratory certified for drinking water analysis by Maryland – \$25
4. An employee of a well drilling operation – \$25
5. An employee of the Maryland Department of the Environment – \$ free
6. An employee of a County Environmental Health Program – \$ free
7. None of the above – \$125

Do I need to know any additional information?

An annual calendar of classes scheduled throughout Maryland is at:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water_supply/Pages/drinkingwater.aspx

Who do I contact with additional questions?

Water Supply Program
watersupply@maryland.gov

(410) 537-3729