**R156. Commerce, Professional Licensing.**

**R156-20b. Environmental Health Scientist Act Rule.**

**R156-20b-101. Title -- Authority -- Relationship to Rule R156-1.**

(1) This rule is known as the "Environmental Health Scientist Act Rule."

(2) This rule is adopted by the Division under the authority of Subsection 58-1-106(1)(a) to enable the Division to administer Title 58, Chapter 20b, Environmental Health Scientist Act.

(3) The organization of this rule and its relationship to Rule R156-1 is as described in Section R156-1-101.

**R156-20b-102. Definitions.**

Terms used in the rule are defined in Title 58, Chapter 1, Division of Professional Licensing Act, and in Title 58, Chapter 20b, Environmental Health Scientist Act. In addition:

(1) "Distance learning" means the acquisition of knowledge and skills through information and instruction encompassing all technologies and other forms of learning at a distance including internet, audio and visual recordings, mail, or other correspondence.

(2) "Qualified professional continuing education" means professional continuing education that meets the standards under Section R156-20b-304.

(3) "NEHA" means the National Environmental Health Association.

(4) "Unprofessional conduct" is further defined under Subsection 58-1-203(1)(e) and Section R156-20b-502.

**R156-20b-302a. Qualifications for Licensure - Education Requirements.**

(1) Under Subsections 58-20b-302(1)(c) and (2)(c), an applicant for licensure shall submit evidence of a bachelor's degree or higher.

(2) If the applicant's degree is from a college or university in a jurisdiction outside of the United States or its territories, the applicant shall submit evidence that the degree is the educational equivalent to the degree required under Subsection (1) as determined by an evaluation service that is a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

**R156-20b-302b. Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirement.**

(1) Under Subsection 58-20b-302(1)(d), an applicant shall satisfy the examination requirement by passing the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) Examination administered by the NEHA.

(2) The applicant shall contact the NEHA to request that the applicant's official passing score report be sent directly to the Division.

**R156-20b-302c. Qualifications for Licensure - Supervision Requirements.**

Under Subsections 58-1-203(1)(b) and 58-20b-302(2)(e), an applicant licensed as an environmental health scientist-in-training shall practice under the general supervision of a licensed environmental health scientist for at least six months.

**R156-20b-303. Renewal Cycle - Procedures.**

(1) Under Subsection 58-1-308(1)(a), the renewal date for the two-year renewal cycle applicable to licensees under Title 58, Chapter 20b, Environmental Health Scientist Act, is established in Section R156-1-308a.

(2) Renewal procedures shall be in accordance with Sections R156-1-308a through R156-1-308l.

**R156-20b-304. Professional Continuing Education.**

(1) Under Section 58-20b-304, during each two-year renewal period commencing June 1 of each odd numbered year, an environmental health scientist licensee or environmental health scientist-in-training licensee shall complete at least 30 hours of qualified professional continuing education directly related to the licensee's professional practice.

(2) If an individual first becomes licensed during the two-year renewal cycle, the individual's required number of continuing education hours shall be increased or decreased proportionately according to the date of licensure.

(3) Qualified professional continuing education shall:

(a) have an identifiable clear statement of purpose and defined objective for the educational program that is directly related to the practice of an environmental health scientist;

(b) be relevant to the licensee's professional practice;

(c) be presented in a competent, well-organized, and sequential manner consistent with the stated purpose and objective of the program;

(d) be prepared and presented by individuals who are qualified by education, training, and experience; and

(e) have records of registration and completion available for review.

(4) Credit for professional continuing education shall be:

(a) completed in blocks of time of not less than 50 minutes;

(b) completed through at least one of the following formats:

(i) a college or university lecture and discussion;

(ii) a professional conference;

(iii) a seminar;

(iv) a training session;

(v) a synchronous webinar;

(vi) an asynchronous online self-pace module;

(vii) a lab; and

(c) approved, taught, or sponsored by one of the following:

(i) the Utah Environmental Health Association;

(ii) the Bureau of Environmental Services;

(iii) the Utah Department of Environmental Quality;

(iv) the Bureau of Epidemiology;

(v) the State Food Program;

(vi) the NEHA;

(vii) the Food and Drug Administration;

(viii) the Center for Disease Control and Prevention;

(ix) the Association of Food and Drug Officials;

(x) the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance;

(xi) the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association;

(xii) the Rural Water Association of Utah;

(xiii) the Utah Onsite Wastewater Association;

(xiv) a local, state, or federal agency; or

(xv) a college or university that provides courses in or related to environmental health science.

(5)(a) Up to 15 hours of credit may be recognized for a licensee who teaches a continuing professional education course relevant to environmental health that meets the requirements of this section.

(b) One continuing education hour shall be awarded for each hour of teaching under Subsection (5)(a).

(6) Up to four hours of credit may be recognized for a licensee who is appointed as a board member to a local, state, or federal board that is related to the licensee's professional practice.

(7) A licensee shall maintain documentation sufficient to prove compliance with this section for a period of four years after the end of the renewal cycle for which the professional continuing education is due.

(8) The Division may defer or waive continuing education requirements as provided in Section R156-1-308d.

**R156-20b-502. Unprofessional Conduct.**

"Unprofessional conduct" includes:

(1) failing to comply with the professional continuing education requirements in Section R156-20b-304; or

(2) failing to provide general supervision as defined in Subsection 58-20b-102(3).

**KEY: licensing, environmental health scientist, sanitarian, environmental health scientist-in-training**

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**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 58-1-106(1)(a); 58-1-202(1)(a); 58-20b-101**