

Standards For Certification of Illegal Drug Laboratory Remediation Specialist

This document describes recommended standards for certification, by the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona, of remediation specialists working to remediate residual contamination at illegal drug laboratories from the manufacture of methamphetamine and amphetamine. It has been adapted from Washington State Department of Health guidelines. The reader is referred to the Board of Technical Registration website www.btr.state.az.us/remapp.hmt for description of the most similar existing certification program and <http://www.btr.state.az.us> for a description of the Arizona Revised Statutes (specifically ARS 32-131) covering this existing certification program.

Three levels of certification are recommended: illegal drug laboratory remediation training provider, illegal drug laboratory remediation supervisor and illegal drug laboratory remediation worker. Sixteen hours of training will be required for certification at a worker level, and an additional 8 of training for certification at a supervisor level. Annual worker and supervisor refresher courses will require a minimum of 4 hours of training.

Training Provider Certification

(1) Persons wanting to become an illegal drug lab decontamination training provider should obtain approval of instructors and courses by the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona. The types of drug lab decontamination courses approved by the department should be:

- (a) Basic worker;
- (b) Basic supervisor; and
- (c) Refresher worker and supervisor.

(2) Instructor approval should be contingent on the breadth of knowledge and experience required to properly train workers and supervisors. This includes but is not limited to a bachelors degree or higher in the sciences and first-hand experience with remediation of illegal drug laboratories.

(3) Course work approval should be contingent on evaluation of the:

- (a) Adequacy and accuracy of content; and
- (b) Training techniques.

(4) Applicants for training provider certification should submit a completed training provider application and prescribed fee sixty or more days before the requested approval date.

(5) A training provider application should include:

(a) A completed training provider application form;

(b) A list of all personnel involved in course presentation and a description of their qualifications;

(c) Copies of course handouts;

(d) A detailed description of course content and the amount of time allotted to each major topic;

(e) A description of teaching methods;

(f) A list of all audio-visual materials proposed for use;

(g) A list of two hundred questions for development of an examination; and

(h) Copies of all audio-visual materials proposed for use.

(6) Training provider certification should be valid for a period not to exceed two years from the date of issuance.

(7) Training provider certification should be terminated if the training provider fails to:

(a) Maintain the course content and quality; and

(b) Make changes to a course as required by the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona.

Training Provider Responsibilities

(1) Prior to any training, the training provider should:

(a) Notify the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona in writing thirty or more days before training is scheduled to begin. The notification should include the date, time, and address of the location where training will be conducted;

(b) Limit each class to a maximum of thirty participants;

(c) Incorporate into training any required subject matter developed by the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona;

(d) Obtain Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona approval in advance of any changes to the training; and

(e) Maintain the course content and quality.

(2) Within ten days after a training is completed, the training provider should provide the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona with a list of the names, addresses, and social security numbers of all persons completing a basic or refresher training course.

(3) The training provider should allow a representative of the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona to attend a training course as an observer.

Training Provider Certification Renewal

Training providers seeking renewal certification should submit a completed training provider application including prescribed fee to the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona thirty or more days before expiration of the current certificate.

Basic Training Course Content

Department approved basic worker and supervisor training courses should provide at a minimum:

(1) Information on state and federal laws, rules, and regulations applicable to illegal drug manufacturing or storage sites.

(2) Chemical terminology, classifications, toxicology, and properties related to illegal drug manufacturing.

(3) Illegal drug laboratory characteristics.

(4) First aid.

(5) Adverse health effects of exposure related to illegal drug manufacturing.

(6) Decontamination following chemical exposure.

(7) Techniques and equipment used for decontamination of property.

(8) Handling unknown substances.

(9) State and federal requirements for dealing with hazardous materials related to:

(a) Disposal;

(b) Transportation;

(c) Storage; and

(d) Reporting.

(10) Training for supervisors should include, but not be limited to:

(a) Obtaining necessary information for making site assessments;

(b) Initial site assessment;

(c) Initial site sampling;

(d) Work plan development;

(e) Final site sampling;

(f) Report completion; and

(g) Penalties and liabilities.

(11) Sampling procedures used to determine contamination including but not limited to:

(a) Nonporous surface;

(b) Porous surface;

(c) Air;

(d) Drinking water;

(e) Ground water;

(f) Surface water;

(g) Soil; and

(h) Septic system.

(i) Standards and protocols to ensure accuracy and the ability to produce similar results with repeated sampling;

(j) Proper swabbing techniques to collect a representative sample of the area being sampled; and

(k) Proper care and prudent action to avoid contamination during sampling.

(l) Collection, transportation and storage of samples to assure an unbroken chain-of-custody as described in the American Society of Testing Materials Standard D 4840.

Refresher Training Course

An annual refresher training course should be required for workers and supervisors and should provide at a minimum:

(1) A review of the chemistry and toxicology of illegal drug laboratories;

(2) Update of information on chemical detection and remediation procedures and equipment;

(3) Review of regulatory changes and interpretation; and

(4) Other subjects if required by the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona to update information on new technology and procedures.

Worker and Supervisor Certification

(1) Applicants seeking certification as a decontamination worker should ensure the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board in Arizona receives the following within sixty days of completing the basic worker course:

(a) A completed decontamination worker application and prescribed fee;

(b) Evidence of prior completion of HAZWOPER training and annual recertification;

(c) Evidence of successful completion of a Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board sponsored or approved basic decontamination worker course; and

(d) Evidence of passing the basic decontamination worker examination administered by the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board with a score of seventy percent or higher.

(2) Applicants seeking certification as a decontamination supervisor should ensure the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board receives the following within sixty days of completing the basic supervisor course:

(a) A completed decontamination supervisor application and prescribed fee;

(b) Evidence of prior completion of HAZWOPER training and annual recertification;

(c) Evidence of forty or more hours of on-site experience in hazardous material or illegal drug manufacturing or storage site decontamination projects;

(d) Evidence of successful completion of a Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board sponsored or approved basic decontamination supervisor course; and

(e) Evidence of passing the basic decontamination supervisor examination administered by the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board with a score of seventy percent or higher.

(3) Worker and supervisor certificates are valid for one year from the date of issuance.

(4) Workers and supervisors should make certificates available for inspection at all times during an illegal drug manufacturing or storage site decontamination project.

(5) The certificate may be denied, suspended, or revoked.

Worker and Supervisor Certification Renewal

(1) Certified workers and supervisors seeking certificate renewal should submit to the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board:

(a) A completed application form and prescribed fee for certificate renewal;

(b) Evidence of successful completion of a Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board sponsored or approved refresher training course.

(2) Worker and supervisor renewal certification should be valid for one year from the date of issuance.

(3) Workers and supervisors whose certificates have been expired for more than two years should retake the entire basic course.

(4) Supervisors whose certificates have been expired for more than two years should retake the entire basic supervisor course.

Contractor Certification

(1) A contractor may advertise, offer to undertake, or perform decontamination, demolition, or disposal work at an illegal drug manufacturing or storage site only after securing a certificate from the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board.

(2) Applicants for Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board certification as an authorized contractor, should submit to the department:

(a) Evidence of being licensed, bonded, and insured as a general contractor in the State of Arizona;

(b) Evidence of Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board certification for each employee who will do work on an illegal drug manufacturing or storage site;

(c) Documentation that the contractor has at least one Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board certified supervisor and one Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board certified worker; and

(d) A completed decontamination contractor application form and prescribed fee.

Reciprocity

(1) The Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board should provide reciprocal certification for contractors, supervisors, and workers trained and certified in another state if standards and training are substantially equivalent to those in Arizona.

(2) Applicants for reciprocity should submit to the Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board:

(a) A completed application form and prescribed fee for the type of certification being requested;

(b) Documentation of specialized training for illegal drug manufacturing or storage site decontamination; and

(c) Evidence of successful completion of HAZWOPER training.

(3) Prior to certificate approval, the applicant may be required to:

(a) Submit additional information;

(b) Successfully complete a refresher course; or

(c) Pass a Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board-administered examination with a score of seventy percent or more.

Certified Contractor List

(1) The Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board should maintain a list of authorized illegal drug manufacturing or storage site decontamination contractors.

(2) The Board of Technical Registration or other administrative board's authorized contractor list should be made available to local health officials and other appropriate agencies semiannually, and to the public upon request.