

# 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 an application to the Department for the approval of a training course. The application must meet the requirements listed in COMAR 26.11.08.09.
- 2) The Department will review the proposed training course.
- 3) If the application meets the requirements, the Department will grant an approval of the training course.

## Are there any other requirements?

There are four types of incinerator operator certifications:

- 1) Special Medical Waste and Industrial Waste 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.
- 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.

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

| Type of Approval                   | Turnaround Time |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Incinerator operator certification | 30 days         |
| Training course approval           | 60 days         |

## Once I successfully complete an initial certification course, how long will the certification last?

The certification lasts for one year. After the initial training, recertification training shall be taken annually to renew the certification.

## How much will this approval cost?

Training course approval: No fee.  
However, training course providers charge fees to attend incinerator operator 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?

Mitchell Greger  
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Related link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/airpermits>