

REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST/ REGISTERED SANITARIAN

REHS/RS



The Gold Standard in Environmental Health

No issues are more important to the communities in which we live and work than clean air, safe food, and potable water. An individual with an REHS/RS credential has the skill set to ensure that these basic community necessities are met as well as to manage other critical functions such as emergency response, vector control, sewage sanitation, hazardous material handling, and more.

The REHS/RS is the most prevalent credential offered by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). Professionals demonstrate competency in an impressive range of environmental health issues, directing and training personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental situations, and providing education to their communities on environmental health concerns. In addition, REHS/RS credential holders are key members in ensuring communities are in compliance with local, state, and federal environmental health regulations.

Communities that require their environmental health professionals to hold an REHS/RS credential acknowledge two key reasons to have these professional standards:

- 1) Obtaining a professional credential assures that an individual has obtained and can demonstrate core competencies that are relevant to providing communities with high quality environmental health services.
- 2) The process by which an individual becomes certified also ensures that the individual is current with contemporary standards within the profession and is utilizing best practice models consistent with current research and science.

REHS/RS credential holders are key members in ensuring communities are in compliance with local, state and federal environmental health regulations.

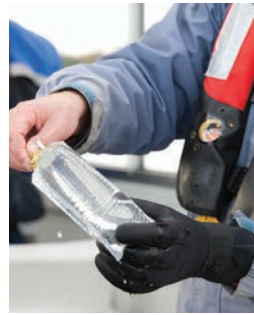


Key Players – Close to Home, Global Leaders

Since the REHS/RS credential encompasses all areas of environmental health, credential holders are employed in a wide range of careers. REHS/RS professionals work in local health departments at the city, county, and state level monitoring local restaurants, swimming pools, homes for lead or radon, hazardous waste, and other community concerns. They also work in industry – such as Procter & Gamble, Starbucks, Darden Restaurants – in academia, the Armed Forces, and at the federal level at CDC, EPA, FDA, and USDA. Anywhere that human health and the environment intersect, you will find REHS/RS professionals working to keep people and communities healthy.

REHS/RS staff working in well managed and effective programs results in an overall economic gain for the community based on disease prevention, extended lives, enhanced productivity, and reduced lost time from work. There is an added community benefit

that comes with better rates of retention within environmental health programs as the workforce achieves the greater professionalism that comes with certification through a nationally recognized credential like the REHS/RS.



A Professional Credential From NEHA

Since 1937 NEHA has been leading the way for practitioners to achieve a set of defined competencies, evidenced through testing and maintained through continuing education. These benchmarks of excellence have become the gold standard in recognizing those who are uniquely equipped to handle the wide breadth of environmental health issues. NEHA's long-standing history in credentialing means that our standards are high and that individuals with a NEHA credential have mastered a body of knowledge and acquired practical experience to perform relevant work responsibilities.

As an impartial, third-party endorsement of an individual's professional knowledge and experience, a credential stands in support of a candidate's resume and professional references. It serves as verification that a professional has achieved a baseline level of competency in his or her subject matter.

REHS/RS Content Curriculum

The REHS/RS credential not only helps one to prove competency and capability in a given field, but also demonstrates to one's community and employers that the individual is competent, properly trained, and equipped to carry out his or her duties. To sit for a credential exam, an individual must possess certain academic and experience requirements.

The REHS/RS credential identifies six different content areas in which a credential holder must demonstrate having knowledge and skill:

1. **Conducting Facility Inspections:** food manufacturing, restaurants, hotels, recreational waters, homes, waste, bio-medical
2. **Conducting System Inspections:** workplace/occupational safety and health, wastewater, drinking water
3. **Conducting Investigations:** epidemiology, air quality, complaints
4. **Ensuring Compliance:** local, state, federal regulations
5. **Promoting Environmental Public Health Awareness:** public health assessment, education, partnerships, outreach
6. **Responding to Emergencies:** risk assessment, emergency preparedness

Learn More About the REHS/RS

This complex and challenging field of study gives professionals the personal satisfaction of knowing their efforts directly and positively impact people's health and their communities. They are integral players with multi-faceted skills that are in high demand in government, nonprofits, and private industries. NEHA offers additional resources on credential eligibility, application, study references, training courses, examination description and locations, reciprocity, and maintaining your credential through continuing education.

Visit www.neha.org/rehs or contact credentialing@neha.org



www.neha.org