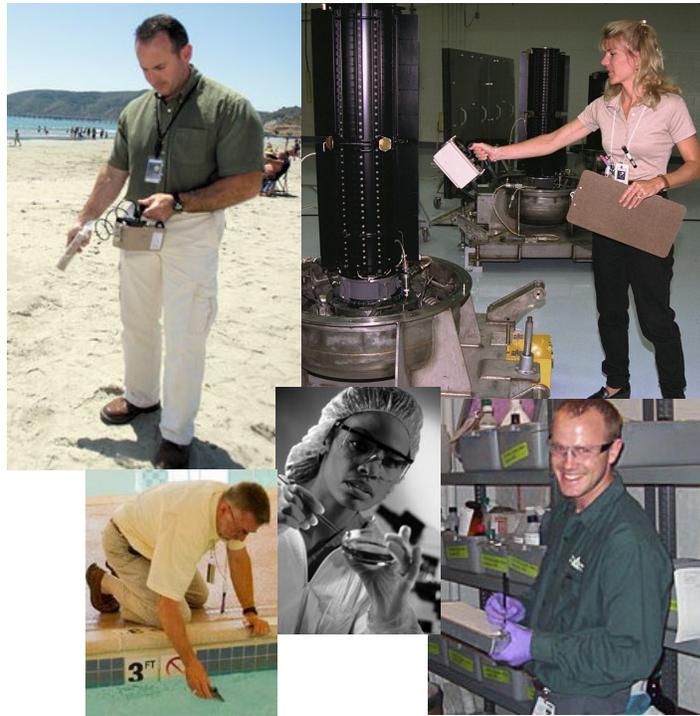


NEHA Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS®)



Candidate Information Brochure



REHS/RS® Examination

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to sit for the REHS/RS® credential examination, a candidate must meet all of the criteria for Track A or Track B or Track C.

Track A – Environmental Health Degree Track. You must be able to answer YES to all the questions for Track A. If you answer a question with a “No,” proceed to Track B.

1. Do you have a Bachelor’s degree, Master’s degree or PhD from a college or university in the United States? Yes_____ No_____. For foreign degrees and diplomas, see the section below on foreign education.
2. Is your degree in Environmental Health? Yes_____ No_____
3. Is your school and degree program on the appropriate EHAC list below?
Yes_____ No_____
 - a. Bachelor’s in Environmental Health: <http://www.nehspace.org/about-ehac/accruited-programs-ehac-undergraduate-programs/>
 - b. Master’s or PhD in Environmental Health: <http://www.nehspace.org/about-ehac/accruited-programs-ehac-graduate-programs/>

If you answered “Yes” to all three questions above, you can apply on Track A. You will not need to submit proof of work experience.

Track B – Bachelor’s Degree Track. You must be able to answer YES to all questions for Track B. If you answer a question with a “No,” proceed to Track C.

1. Do you have a Bachelor’s degree, Master’s degree or PhD from a college or university accredited in the United States? Your degree can be in any subject. Yes_____ No_____. For foreign degrees or diplomas, see the section below on foreign education.
2. Do you have 30 semester hours (or 45 quarter hours) of college credit in basic science coursework? Basic sciences include Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, Physical Sciences or Health Sciences. Yes_____ No_____.
3. Do you have credit for a college level Math or Statistics class? Yes_____ No_____
4. Do you have two years or more experience working in environmental health*? Work experience should be full-time paid work. Yes_____ No_____

** Eligible areas of environmental health include general environmental health (including inspections, environmental microbiology, and contamination control), food protection, wastewater, solid and hazardous waste, potable water, inspections of facilities, vectors and pests, institutions and licensed establishments, swimming pool inspections, radiation, occupational safety and health, healthy housing, indoor air quality, disaster and emergency planning, and environmental health issues related to climate change.*

Track C – “In Training” Track. On Track B above, if you said YES to questions 1, 2, and 3 but you do NOT have two years of work experience in environmental health, you

can apply on the "In Training" Track. You would choose REHS/RS®-In Training (I.T.) on the application. You will not be required to submit proof of work experience. If you pass the exam, your certificate will say, "REHS/RS® – In Training." You will then have 3 years to obtain 2 years of work experience. Once you have acquired that experience, you can qualify for the full REHS/RS® certificate by notifying NEHA and submitting proof of work experience. If you do not obtain the 2 years of work experience, your "In Training" status will expire and you risk losing the credential and may have to reapply and retake the exam.

On Track B above, if you said NO to question 1 (and you do not have a foreign degree either) **OR** said NO to question 2 (science hours) **OR** question 3 (math class), then your education does not meet the requirements for the REHS/RS® credential set by the NEHA Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has ruled that NEHA cannot accept work experience in lieu of college coursework.

If you are not sure about whether your college courses meet the requirements, you can request a transcript review as noted below.

Transcript Review for United States College Transcripts

Candidates with education from within the United States can request NEHA to review their transcripts for eligibility separate from the application procedure for \$50. A transcript review form must be completed and is available at <http://neha.org/sites/default/files/Transcript-Review.pdf>.

Please see additional instructions on the form.

The \$50 fee is non-refundable even if NEHA finds that your education does not meet the REHS/RS® qualification requirements. It can take 2-4 weeks for your transcripts to be reviewed and you will be notified by letter and/or e-mail.

Foreign Education

If you have college or university education from outside the United States or its territories, you must have your foreign education evaluated by a "third party" foreign education evaluation service to determine equivalency to a Bachelor's degree in the United States. You must submit an evaluation report with your NEHA Credential Application or the report can be sent by the evaluation service directly to NEHA.

NEHA cannot evaluate foreign educational documents even if they have been translated into English. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by foreign education specialists.

NEHA strongly recommends you choose a service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). For information on NACES member companies, go to www.naces.org.

Canadian education is considered foreign education. It must be evaluated by a third party evaluation service.

Completing the Application

Applications must be completed online and submitted to NEHA for review at least 4 weeks prior to the desired exam date. If an application is received less than 4 weeks prior to your planned exam date, you may have to schedule the exam for another date.

A complete online application should include:

1. Official College Transcripts. To be considered an official transcript it should be received at the NEHA office in the sealed envelope from the College Registrar's Office/Transcript Office. It can be sent directly from the school to NEHA or submitted with the application in the sealed school envelope. Electronic transcripts from the school or transcript service are accepted when e-mailed to credentialing@neha.org. Electronic versions are the preferred method.
2. Work Experience Verification (Recommendation) signed by a third party.
3. Appropriate fees.
4. Third party review report (applicable for candidates with foreign education).

Application Expiration Policy

Applications are good for 1 year from the date your application is approved. If you have not tested within 1 year of applying, you will need to submit a new application and fees.

Exam Fees

All fees should accompany the NEHA Application.

	<u>Member Rate</u>	<u>Non-Member Rate</u>
Application fees:	\$95.00	\$130.00
Examination fees:	\$185.00	\$335.00
Pearson VUE fee (if applicable):	\$110.00	\$110.00

Exam Scheduling and Locations

Candidates can choose to schedule the REHS/RS[®] examination in two ways:

1. The REHS/RS[®] exam is offered annually at the NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition. See neha.org for AEC information.
2. Most candidates will take the exam on computer through *Pearson VUE*. By choosing this option candidates can schedule the examination at their convenience at one of *Pearson VUE's* testing locations nationwide. To find a *Pearson VUE* testing center near you please visit <http://www.pearsonvue.com/neha>. Taking the exam at *Pearson VUE* not only offers the candidate flexibility in scheduling the exam, but also allows the candidate to receive his/her unofficial scores immediately following the conclusion of the exam.

Special Accommodations for Candidates with Disabilities or Impairments

NEHA is committed to ensuring that no individual is deprived of the opportunity to take a credentialing examination solely by reason of a disability or impairment. All test centers are fully accessible and compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

To make a request for special accommodations you must complete the ADA Accommodation Request Form including the specific diagnosis of your disability, Section 2 filled out and signed by an appropriate licensed professional, and the type of accommodation being requested. All forms and documentation must be returned to NEHA at least 8 weeks prior to the scheduled test date. To receive a copy of the form please contact Credentialing@neha.org.

If the forms are not returned to NEHA at least 8 weeks prior to the scheduled test date, your request for special accommodations may not be honored or may be delayed.

With respect to all matters related to testing accommodations, NEHA will only communicate with the candidate, professionals knowledgeable about the candidate's disability or impairment, the candidate's authorized representative (if applicable), Professional Testing Inc. (PTI) and the test administrator or proctor.

Computer Testing at Pearson VUE: NEHA will send you an authorization letter via e-mail when your application is processed as approved. Then you will get another e-mail, 1-2 days later, from Pearson@proftesting.com. That e-mail will have your PTI ID number and instructions on how to schedule the exam at Pearson VUE. The PTI ID number is good for one year.

On test day you must bring your photo ID as required by Pearson VUE's instructions.

If you need to postpone your scheduled computer test, you must contact Pearson VUE at least 24 hours in advance of your scheduled test time. If you do not show up and did not give at least 24 hours' notice, you will forfeit your Exam Fee and your Computer Test Fee. Contact NEHA to pay your fees again so you can be authorized to reschedule.

Taking a Paper and Pencil Exam, Admission Letter:

If you are taking the exam on paper (not computer) at NEHA's annual educational conference, NEHA will email an admission letter approximately 2 weeks prior to your test date. The admission letter will detail the exam date and location, reporting time, and starting time. Those that do not appear on the date of the exam at the appropriate time will forfeit all exam fees. Persons arriving after the examination has started may not be admitted.

If you lost your admission letter or have not received an admission letter at least 2 days prior to the test date, please contact NEHA.

Only approved candidates will be admitted to the exam. No walk-in applicants will be admitted.

On test day please bring with you your admission letter, photo identification (i.e. driver's license or passport), and sharpened #2 pencils.

Scores

The NEHA REHS/RS® examination will report scores using scaled scores that range from 0 to 900 with a passing score of 650. The raw passing score is mathematically transformed so that the passing scaled score equals 650. This process is similar to the way one adjusts Celsius and Fahrenheit temperature scales. While the values may differ the temperatures are the same. For example, water boils at the same temperature regardless of the scale used.

Candidates who pass the examination will earn scaled scores of 650 and above, and those who fail will earn a scaled score between 0 and 649. A scaled score is NOT a percentage score. In summary, a scaled score is merely a transformation of a raw score. Scaling is done to report comparable results when forms and raw passing scores vary over time. This is similar to the SAT scores for entrance to college.

Your score will be based on the number of questions answered correctly. If you are unsure of the answer it is better to guess. You will not be given credit for any question left blank.

Your exam results will be mailed to you from the NEHA office 4-6 weeks after the administration.

If you pass the exam, NEHA will email you a credentialing packet with a score letter, certificate, wallet card and continuing education information.

If you fail the exam, NEHA will email you a score letter and a Retake Application. You must wait at least 90 days from your test date before you can retake the exam. To retake the exam, you need to submit the Retake Application and pay the Exam Fee and Computer Test Fee, if you will retake the exam on computer. You do not need to do the whole application again or resubmit transcripts. There is no limit on the number of times you can retake the exam, but you must wait 90 days between each attempt.

Reciprocity

In some cases, if you hold a state REHS/RS® credential, you may be eligible to receive NEHA's REHS/RS® credential without re-examination (reciprocity). In order to be eligible for reciprocity you must:

1. Have a valid, current state registration; and
2. Have a Bachelor's degree with 30 semester/45 quarter hours in basic sciences; and
3. Have a passing score of:
 - a. 650 or higher on the NEHA exam taken on or after July 13, 2014, or
 - b. 68% or higher on the NEHA exam taken between January 1, 1998, and July 12, 2014, or

- c. 70% or higher on the PES exam provided it was taken before December 31, 1997. PES exams taken after this date are not eligible to receive national REHS/RS® reciprocity through NEHA.

For more information on qualifying for national REHS/RS® reciprocity please contact the NEHA Credentialing Department at (303) 756-9090 ext. 310, or email credentialing@neha.org.

Credential Maintenance

Once you have obtained the REHS/RS® credential you must maintain it. To keep your credential in good standing you must:

1. Submit a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education every two years; and
2. Submit renewal fees for your credential every two years (\$130.00 members; \$345.00 non-members).

NEHA's Credentialing Handbook

It is strongly recommended that you read NEHA's Credentialing Handbook: *Guide to Policies and Procedures for NEHA's Credentialing Programs*. This handbook outlines all the policies you are expected to follow by being a NEHA credential holder. The handbook also outlines in further detail the procedures for applying for a credential, submitting continuing education, and maintaining your credential.

You can access the Credentialing Handbook at www.neha.org. Click on Professional Development, then click on Credentials and look for the link to the Handbook on the left side.

Exam Description and Content Outline

The REHS/RS examination consists of a total of 225 multiple-choice questions. The exam is split into two parts. Part 1 will have 113 questions and Part 2 will have 112 questions. Candidates are given a total of three (3) hours and forty (40) minutes to complete the entire exam or one (1) hour and fifty (50) minutes for each part with a short 10-minute break in between. Of the 225 items, 200 will be scored. The remaining 25 questions will be unscored, pilot questions. Those items will not be called out within the exam.

Below is an outline of the different content areas the examination covers and the percentages allotted to each of those areas. Please use this outline as a guide when preparing for the examination.

	Duties and Tasks	Exam Weight	N of Items
A	Performing Environmental Health Surveillance	12%	24
A.01	Plan surveillance activities		8
A.02	Collect surveillance data		4
A.03	Analyze data		4
A.04	Implement actions		8
B	Conducting Inspections	48%	96
B.01	Review regulations and standards		11
B.02	Prioritize inspections		4
B.03	Maintain inspection equipment		2
B.04	Perform food inspections		16
B.05	Perform wastewater inspections (i.e., onsite,		11
B.06	Perform potable water quality inspections		11
B.07	Perform recreational water inspections		9
B.08	Perform solid, hazardous, and infectious waste facility inspections		11
B.10	Perform body art inspections		2
B.11	Perform group gathering inspections		3
B.12	Perform healthy homes inspections		4
B.14	Perform institution inspections		10
B.16	Perform other inspections		2
C	Conducting Investigations	18%	36
C.01	Perform epidemiology investigations		12
C.02	Perform lead investigations		3
C.03	Perform environmental health investigations		5
C.04	Verify risk abatement		6
C.05	Perform vector and pest investigations		10
D	Conducting Compliance Review	12%	24
D.01	Conduct plan review		8
D.02	Review HACCP plans		6
D.03	Evaluate variance requests		2
D.04	Determine permitting status		3
D.05	Verify compliance with regulations		5
E	Providing Environmental Health Information	10%	20
E.01	Communicate findings and corrective actions		4
E.02	Perform technical assistance		2
E.03	Collaborate with stakeholders (e.g., Community		2
E.04	Communicate environmental health risks		6
E.05	Create environmental public health emergency response preparedness plans		2
E.06	Implement environmental public health emergency response preparedness plans		4
	Total	100%	200

Recommended Study References

Below is a list of study references that are recommended to assist candidates in preparing for the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) credential exam.

REHS/RS Study Guide (5th Edition)

National Environmental Health Association, 2021

261 pages, paperback

Starting in 2020, NEHA launched the process of revising this study guide to reflect the most recent changes and advancements in environmental health technologies and theories. Incorporating the insights of 29 subject matter experts from across academia, industry, and the regulatory community, paired with references from over 30 scholarly resources, the fifth edition of the *REHS/RS Study Guide* was thoughtfully compiled and recreated in a fresh visual layout to enhance the reading and studying experience. The fifth edition includes 15 chapters that provide an overview of each content area for the REHS/RS credential exam. Each chapter covers a different environmental domain and is broken down into standardized sections including Roles and Responsibilities, Recommended Reading, and Test Mapping. At the conclusion of each chapter, there is a collection of sample exam questions to provide exam candidates the opportunity to apply the principles for that domain.

Chapter topics include:

- General Environmental Health
- Statutes and Regulations
- Food Protection
- Potable Water
- Wastewater
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Hazardous Materials
- Zoonoses, Vectors, Pests, and Poisonous Plants
- Radiation Protection
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Air Quality and Environmental Noise
- Housing Sanitation and Safety
- Institutions and Licensed Establishments
- Swimming Pools and Recreational Facilities
- Emergency Preparedness

This essential guide is intended for those seeking to obtain the NEHA REHS/RS credential. It provides a general overview of the topics found on the REHS/RS credential exam and helps those studying for the exam identify areas of strength and areas where more study is needed.

[PURCHASE THE NEW REHS/RS STUDY GUIDE](#)

Individual References

The following are additional references to assist candidates in preparing for the REHS/RS credential exam in both specific and general environmental health topic areas. Several of these references are available for purchase through the [NEHA Bookstore](#) and those links are provided below.

- [National Environmental Health Association. \(2021\). *REHS/RS Study Guide* \(5th ed.\).](#)
- [California Association of Environmental Health Administrators. \(2012\). *Disaster Field Manual for Environmental Health Specialists*.](#)
- Carter, M. (2007). *Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis*. CRC Press.
- Das, D.B., & Chandrappa, R. (2012). *Solid Waste Management: Principles and Practice*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- [Ewing, K.A., McCall, D.R., III, Case, D.R., Miller, M.L., Steinway, D.M., Nardi, K.J., Bell, C., Landfair, S.W., Olney, A.P., Richichi, T., Brownell, F.W., King, J.O., Scagnelli, J.M., Spensley, J.W., von Oppenfeld, R.R., & Davis, A.N. \(2019\). *Environmental Law Handbook* \(24th ed.\). Bernan Press.](#)
- Food and Drug Administration. *2009, 2013, and 2017 Model Food Codes*.
- Ginter, P.M., Swayne, L.E., & Duncan, J.W. (2018). *The Strategic Management of Health Care Organizations*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Glasson, J., & Therivel, R. (2019). *Introduction To Environmental Impact Assessment*. Taylor & Francis.
- Hellberg, R.S., Everstine, K., & Sklare, S.A. (2020). *Food Fraud: A Global Threat with Public Health and Economic Consequences* (1st ed.). Academic Press.
- [Heymann, D.L. \(Ed\). \(2014\). *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual* \(20th ed\). APHA Press.](#)
- Kapur, B.J. & Smith, J.P. (2011). *Emergency Public Health: Preparedness and Response*. Jones & Bartlett Learning.
- Klaassen, C.D. (2013). *Casarett & Doull's Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons* (8th ed.). McGraw-Hill Professional.
- Knechtges, P.L., Kearney, G.D., & Resnick, B.A. (2018). *Environmental Public Health: The Practitioner's Guide*. APHA Press.
- [Koren, H., & Bisesi, M.S. \(2003\). *Handbook of Environmental Health, Volume 1: Biological, Chemical, and Physical Agents of Environmentally Related Disease* \(4th ed\). CRC Press.](#)
- [Koren, H., & Bisesi, M.S. \(2003\). *Handbook of Environmental Health, Volume 2: Pollutant Interactions in Air, Water, and Soil* \(4th ed.\). CRC Press.](#)
- Lundgren, R.E., & McMakin, A.H. (2018). *Risk Communication: A Handbook for Communicating Environmental, Safety, and Health Risks*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- [Marriott, N.G., Schilling, M.W., & Gravani, R.B. \(2018\). *Principles of Food Sanitation* \(6th ed.\). Springer.](#)
- Meyer, E. (2013). *Chemistry of Hazardous Material* (6th ed.). Pearson.
- Moeller, D.W. (2011). *Environmental Health* (4th ed.). Harvard University Press.
- Morgan, M.T. (2003). *Environmental Health* (3rd ed.). Wadsworth, Inc.
- Nadakavukaren, A., & Caravanos, J. (2020). *Our Global Environment: A Health Perspective* (8th ed.). Waveland Press, Inc.
- [Nemerow, N.L., Agardy, F.J., Sullivan, P., & Salvato, J.A. \(Eds\). \(2009\). *Environmental Engineering: Environmental Health and Safety for*](#)

- [Municipal Infrastructure, Land Use and Planning, and Industry \(6th ed\).](#) John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- [Nemerow, N.L., Agardy, F.J., Sullivan, P., & Salvato, J.A. \(Eds\). \(2009\). Environmental Engineering: Prevention and Response to Water-, Food-, Soil-, and Air-borne Disease and Illness \(6th ed.\).](#) John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
 - [Nemerow, N.L., Agardy, F.J., Sullivan, P., & Salvato, J.A. \(Eds\). \(2009\). Environmental Engineering: Water, Wastewater, Soil and Groundwater Treatment and Remediation \(6th ed.\).](#) John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
 - [Oleckno, W.A. \(2002\). Essential Epidemiology: Principles and Applications.](#) Waveland Press, Inc.
 - [Oleckno, W.A. \(2008\). Epidemiology: Concepts and Methods.](#) Waveland Press, Inc.
 - [Pool & Hot Tub Alliance. \(2016\). Pool & Spa Operator Handbook.](#)
 - [Singh, R.L., & Mondal, S. \(2019\). Food Safety and Human Health.](#) Academic Press.
 - [Wong, J.W, Surampalli, R.Y., Zhang, T.C., Rajeshwar, D.T., & Selvam, A. \(Eds.\). \(2016\). Sustainable Solid Waste Management.](#) American Society of Civil Engineers.
 - [Yassi, A., Kjellstrom, T., de Kok, T., & Guidotti, T.L. \(2001\). Basic Environmental Health.](#) Oxford University Press.
 - [Yates, W.D. \(2017\). Safety Professional's Reference and Study Guide.](#) CRC Press.