



**HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA  
PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
PRACTITIONERS**

**EXAMINATION GUIDELINES FOR A PERSON WHO WISHES TO  
RESTORE / REGISTER THEIR NAME ON THE REGISTER AS AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER IN SOUTH AFRICA  
HOLDING A REGISTRABLE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
QUALIFICATION**

**GENERAL OUTCOME**

**To assess the candidate by means of an examination to determine if the candidate is still able to practice independently as an environmental health practitioner in South Africa under the South African legal framework, systems and ethical conduct as defined within the regulations promulgated under the Health Professions Act, Act 1974 (Act no 56 of 1974). Specific competencies need to be demonstrated in the areas of legislation, health structures, health systems as well as professionalism.**

## **GENERAL**

Candidates eligible for assessment had already supplied the necessary documentation and proof of their basic qualifications to the Professional Board. Because they have been removed from the practicing for more than four years, it is a precondition that the candidate sit for an oral examination to evaluate if the candidate is still in a position to independently practice in South Africa as an environmental health practitioner.

The eight specified learning outcomes hereunder are drafted to ensure that a candidate is capable to practice independently. Assessing the candidate's knowledge on environmental health law, practices, systems, ethics and related areas:

1. The candidates' knowledge of practically applying the legislative acts as applicable of the scope of the profession for environmental health practitioners
2. Understand the different levels of government in South Africa with specific relation to environmental health service delivery
3. Understand the composition and functioning of the municipal and national health system in South Africa in relation to environmental Health services.
4. The candidates' knowledge and interpretation of approaches to general ethics (constitutional rights) in the context of professionalism, knowledge as well as consequences and procedures of alleged misconduct.
5. A good understanding of the management principles (generic administrative processes) applicable when managing environmental health services
6. A candidate to have a clear knowledge on legislative procedure in relation to Environmental Health related offences.
7. An acceptable understanding of the environmental health practitioner as an educator and facilitator.

8. the candidate to know the function of the EHP in relation to the regulation relating to the scope of the profession for Environmental health Practitioners

The focus of the oral or written assessment is however not to verify the candidate's detailed technical knowledge but to focus on the above specified outcomes. The candidate's qualification(s) with academic transcript / outcomes were already accepted by the Board in principle – the focus of this assessment is on application of knowledge.

The following serves as general guidance to applicants to understand the above mentioned eight learning outcomes for the oral or written assessment as well as to prepare for the assessment:

## **1. LEGISLATION**

### **THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996 (No 108 of 1996)**

Understand the constitutional rights of individuals and communities especially as far as fundamental rights to health and environment.

Chapter 2 – Bill of rights especially section 24 (environmental rights), section 26 (housing), section 27 (health care, food and social security)

### **FOODSTUFFS, COSMETICS AND DISINFECTANTS ACT, 1972 (No 54 of 1972 as amended)**

Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

All articles of the Act

R328: Regulations Relating to the Powers and Duties of Inspectors and Analysts Conducting Inspections and Analyses on Foodstuffs and at Food premises

R638: Regulations governing general hygiene requirements for food premises, the transport of food and related matters

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: AIR QUALITY ACT, 2004. (No 39 of 2004)**

Custodian the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)

General overview with the focus on the new approach towards determining the effects on the receiving environment rather than point source emissions.

Section 7- 8: Awareness on the National Framework for air quality Management

Section 9: National Ambient air quality standards

Section 14: Appointment of air quality officers for 3 tiers of government

Section 15 – 16: Air quality management plans and its purpose for the 3 tiers of government

Section 18 – 19: Declaration of priority areas and implications for declaration

Section 23 & 25: Declaration of controlled emitters and consequences of declaration

Sections 36 - 49: Licensing of listed activities

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 1993 (ACT No 85 of 1993)**

Custodian Department of Labour (DoL)

General overview

Asbestos regulations GN R155, 10 February 2002

Environmental regulations for workplaces GN R2281 of 16 October 1987 as amended to GN R489 of 18 March 1994

Regulations for hazardous chemical substances GN 1179 25 August 1995

Lead regulations GN R236, 28 February 2002

**MEAT SAFETY ACT, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000)**

Custodian Department of Agriculture

General overview\*

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE ACT, ACT  
NO.59 OF 2008**

**NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)**

Custodian Department of Water and Sanitation

General overview: The role of EH in implementing this Act

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (Act 107 of  
1998)**

Custodian Department of Environmental Affairs

General overview: The role of EH in implementing this Act

**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACT, 1973 (Act 15 of 1973)**

Department of Health (DoH)

General overview \*

R452 GG 9556 of 25 March 1977 – Group I hazardous substances

R1302 GG 13299 of 14 June 1991 – Group II hazardous substances

R246 GG 14596 of 26 February 1993 – Group III hazardous substances

R1382 GG 15907 of 12 August 1994 – Group IV hazardous substances

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL ACT, 1993 (No 83 of 1993)**

Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

\*General overview with specific reference to environmental health duties and responsibilities

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT, 1999 (No 12 of 1999)**

Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

\*General overview with specific reference to environmental health duties and responsibilities

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT, No. 23 of 2007**

Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

\*General overview with specific reference to environmental health duties and responsibilities

\*General overview is defined as the following:

- The Government Department responsible for administering the Act
- The purpose of the Act
- A summary of the different chapters (parts & sections) of the Act that relates directly to environmental health service delivery (as seen within the scope the profession)

Hereunder find a list of regulations (applicable to mostly municipal environmental health service delivery) that guide and impact directly on the scope of an environmental health practitioner. It is not expected from the candidate to understand the detail of each regulation but basic knowledge is expected:

- Notice relating to smoking of tobacco products in public places (R264 of 30 March 2012). Made in Terms of the “Tobacco Products Control Act”, 1993 (Act No. 83 of 1993)

- Regulations Governing General Hygiene Requirements For Food Premises The Transport of Food and Related Matters (R638 of 22 June 2018) as amended
- Regulations relating to the powers and duties of inspectors and analysts conducting inspections and analyses on foodstuffs and at food premises (R328 of 2007) as amended
- National Noise Control Regulations R154 of 1992
- Irradiation of Foodstuffs (R1600 of 22 July 1983)
- Regulation defining the scope of profession for Environmental Health Practitioners (R 698 of June 2009)
- Regulations Governing the Labeling of Raw Boerewors, Raw Species Sausage and Raw Mixed Species Sausage (R 2718 of 23 November 1990)
- Regulations Relating to Preservatives and Antioxidants in Foodstuffs (R 965 of 3 June 1977) as amended
- Regulations relating to miscellaneous additives in foodstuffs (R 1425 of 17 November 2016)
- Regulations governing Microbiological Standards for foodstuff and related matters R 692 of 16 May 1997) as amended
- Regulations Relating to Labeling and Advertising of foodstuffs (R146 of 2010)
- Regulations Relating to the Prohibition of the Sale of Comfrey, Foodstuffs containing Camfrey and Jelly Confectionery Containing Konjac (R 1408 of 10 October 2003)
- Regulations relating to the management of human remains( R363 of 22 May 2013)
- Regulations Governing the Maximum Limits For Pesticide Residues that may be present in Foodstuffs (R246 of 11 February 1994 as amended)
- Regulations Relating to the Application of the HACCP System (R 908 of 27 June 2003) as amended

- Health Care Risk Management regulations as provided for by the Provincial regulator or as per specific promulgated municipal By-law.

## **2. SPHERES OF GOVERNANCE**

Environmental health responsibilities at each level:

- National – Chapter 3 of the National Health Act
- Provincial – Chapter 4 of the National Health Act & Chapter 6 of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (No 108 Of 1996)
- Local – Chapter 5 of the National Health Act & Chapter 7 of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (No 108 Of 1996)\*

## **3. THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

Schedule 4 A and B of the Constitution of RSA

Schedule 5 A and B Functional Areas of Exclusive Provincial Legislative Competence.

Functional Areas of Concurrent National and Provincial Legislative Competence and Local Government Matters or Functions.

## **4. BILL OF RIGHTS**

Definition of professionalism

- Regulation R2310 dated 3 December 1976 Rules specifying the act
- Constitution of South Africa Chapter 2 – Bill of Rights:
  - or omissions in respect of which disciplinary steps may be taken by the professional board for Environmental Health Practitioners
- Procedures and responsibilities during misconduct

Ethics as related to service delivery in the context of the Constitution of South Africa Chapter 2 – Bill of Rights:



- Equality
- Human dignity
- Life
- Freedom and security of a person
- Slavery, servitude and forced labor
- Privacy
- Freedom of religion, belief and opinion
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of association
- Political rights
- Freedom of movement and residence
- Freedom of trade, occupation and profession
- Access to information
- Just administrative action
- Access to courts
- Limitation of rights

## **5. ADMINISTRATIVE GENERIC PROCESSES**

Basic principles of managing Environmental Health Services:

- Policy
- Planning
- Organising - Organogram
- Finances
- Personnel - HR
- Procedures and control functions

## **6. LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES**

### **Business Act, 1991 (Act No.71 of 1991)**

Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (No 51 of 1977):-

- Serving a notice
- Serving a final notice
- Summons
- Interdict
- Spot fines
- Court procedures
- Role of health education in law enforcement

## **7. PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

Ethics is one of the most crucial parts in performing your duties in the field of Environmental Health or any health Profession.

Being a qualified EHP one should have a moral or ethical duty to others and society. These duties are generally in keeping with the principles of the South African Constitution (Act No.108 of 1996) and the obligations imposed on health care practitioners by law. Practitioner must indicate his/her understanding of these values within his area of operation.

The candidate should indicate what he/she perceives as good ethical practices

- Confidentiality
- Duty to community
- Integrity
- Honesty
- Justice
- Tolerance
- Professional competency and self-improvement

## **8. THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION FOR EHPs- FUNCTIONS IN TERMS OF R 698 OF JUNE 2009- REGULATION DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION FOR EHPs**

- Water quality monitoring
- Food control
- Waste management and general hygiene monitoring
- Health surveillance of premises
- Surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases excluding immunization

- Environmental pollution control
- Disposal of the dead
- Chemical safety
- Noise control
- Radiation(ionization and non-ionization) monitoring and control
- Vector control
- Port health
- Malaria control
- Control and monitoring of chemical safety