



**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 SOUTH AFRICAN 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 and advanced qualifications and professional experience to the Professional Board. Because they have been removed from the practicing register for two years or more, 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 six specified learning outcomes hereunder are drafted to ensure that a candidate is capable to practice independently assessing the candidates' 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 practice of environmental health
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
4. The candidates' knowledge and interpretation of approaches to general ethics (constitutional rights) and specifically of the scope of practice for environmental health practitioners 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. An acceptable understanding of the environmental health practitioner as an educator and facilitator

The focus of the oral or written assessment is however not to verify the candidates' detailed technical knowledge but to focus on the above specified outcomes. The candidates' qualification(s) with academic transcript / outcomes as well as professional experience 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 seven 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 73 of 1972 as amended)

Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

All articles of the Act

Regulation R2162 dated 11 November 1973. Duties of inspectors and analysts

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

Custodian the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)

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 (No 85 of 1993)

Custodian Department of Labor (DoL)

General overview

Asbestos regulations GN R155 10 February 2001

Environmental regulations for workplaces GN R2281 of 16 October 1987
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*

Regulations Part II section II

**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 *

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

Custodian Department of Environmental Affairs

General overview *

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, 2003 (No of 2003)

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 of practice)

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 applicant to understand the detail of each regulation but basic knowledge is expected:

- Notice relating to smoking of tobacco products in public places (R 975 of 29 September 2000). Made in Terms of The “Tobacco Products Control Act”, 1993 (Act No. 83 of 1993)
- Regulations Governing General Hygiene Requirements For Food Premises and The Transport of Food R962 of 2012) 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 (R 2644)
- 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 1990)
- Regulations Relating to Preservatives and Antioxidants in Foodstuffs (R 965 of 1977) as amended
- Regulations Governing Emulsifiers, Stabilisers and Thickeners and the amounts thereof that foodstuff may contain (R 2527 of 1987)
- Regulations governing Microbiological Standards for foodstuff and related matters R 692 of 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 2003)
- Regulations relating to the management of human remains(R363 of 2013)
- Regulations Governing the Maximum Limits For Pesticide Residues that may be present in Foodstuffs (R246 of 1994 as amended)
- Regulations Relating to the Application of the HACCP System (R 908 of 2003) as amended
- Health Care Risk Management regulations as provided for by the Provincial regulator or as per specific promulgated municipal By –law.

2. LEVELS 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)
- Metro – Chapter 5 of the National Health Act & Chapter 7 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)*
- Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2002 (No 32 of 2000) with specific reference to Integrated Development Plans (IDP) and the role of environmental health in developing and managing IDP plans
- District level – Chapter 5 of the National Health Act

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.

3. PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Definition of professionalism

- Regulation R1698 of June 2009 Regulations defining the scope of the profession of the Environmental Health Practitioner
- Regulation R2310 dated 3 December 1976 Rules specifying the act 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

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) please consult the HPCSA website, navigate to the Professional Board for EHP and click on CPD. Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):

- Aim and purpose
- Earning Continuous Educational Units (CEU)
- CPD log
- Audit call by the HPCSA
- Responsibility of practitioner to earn / accumulate CEUs

4. ADMINISTRATIVE GENERIC PROCESSES

Basic principles of managing Environmental Health Services:

- Policy
- Planning
- Organising - Organogram
- Finances
- Personnel - HR

- Procedures and control functions

5. LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Business Act, 1991 (no.71 of 1991)

Criminal Procedure Act, 1955 (No 56 of 1955):-

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

6. THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER AS AN EDUCATOR AND FACILITATOR

Understand the broad philosophy behind the concepts of health education and facilitation in community development – practical experiences

Participatory approach in environmental health – practical experiences

Stakeholders in environmental health service delivery

- Public participation process
- Consultation process
- Community involvement
- Multi disciplinary team approach

Other approaches to prevention:

- Licensing processes – e.g. atmospheric emission licenses
- Certification processes
- Requirements on building plans
- Environmental authorisations
- Environmental impacts assessments
- Environmental sampling (water, food and air)