Underground Storage Tank (UST) Worker Certification Fact Sheet

When is a certified person necessary?
An individual certified by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) who is exercising supervisory control must be on-site during specified processes during UST installations, repairs, retrofitting, upgrading, change-in-service, closure, tank and/or piping tightness testing and/or UST corrosion protection system installation, repair, upgrade, or testing.

What are the classifications of certification?

Class A is for those who install, repair, retrofit or upgrade an UST;
Class B is for those who perform closures or change-in service of an UST;
Class C is for those who perform tank and/or piping tightness testing;
Class D is for those who install, repair, test or upgrade corrosion protection systems;
Class E is for those who conduct routine tests, system maintenance, and routine inspections on corrosion systems; and,
Class F is for those who perform minor repairs to UST systems.

What are the requirements for certification?
To be certified, an individual must:
1. Demonstrate to the WV DEP on an "Application for Underground Storage Tank Worker Certification" form that they meet the required qualifications for certification.
2. Pay the **$185.00** fee in the form of a check or money order; and
3. Candidates for Class A, B, C, and/or F must take an examination and make a passing score of 80% on the examination. Those who fail the exam will be allowed to retest after paying a $60 exam fee. No one can take the exam more than three (3) times within a 12-month period.

- Candidates for Class C must also submit proof of a current certification by the manufacturer(s) for each tank and/or piping tightness test method that they will be using.
- Candidate for Class D must submit proof of a current certification level as a corrosion technician, at a minimum, by NACE or an equivalent certification from organization.
- Candidates for Class E must submit proof of a current certification level as a corrosion tester, at a minimum, by NACE or an equivalent certification from organization.

What are the qualification requirements?
Individuals applying for certification must demonstrate to the WV DEP that they meet the following requirements:
- Demonstrate ethical practice by supplying written references from two (2) personal references and two (2) professional references attesting to the applicant's ethical practices.

- Demonstrate experience by documenting active participation in a minimum of 10 UST system installations, repairs, retrofits, upgrades, performance of changes-in-service, closures, and tank and/or piping tightness testing conducted after December 22, 1988, as is applicable to the Class A, Class B, Class C and/or Class F certification. The applicant must submit documentation of a minimum of ten (10) active job participations for each individual certificate classification for which the applicant has applied. A civil or mechanical engineering license from the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers of West Virginia may also be substituted for experience.
- Class D and E must submit proof of certification by NACE or certification by another organization that is equivalent to the appropriate NACE certification.

What will the examination cover?
The multiple-choice questions will be derived from information contained in industry documents, manufacturers' instructions, federal and state regulations and WV DEP policies and memorandums. A study guide and non-copyrighted material is provided on the WVDEP website.

Where do I take the examination?
The WVDEP conducts testing at its office at 601 57th Street SE, Charleston. Applicants will receive written notification that they are approved to take the examination and are to call to schedule the exam. Exams are given by appointment only.

How often does the certificate have to be renewed?
Certificates issued on or after June 1, 2018 will expire on December 31st of every third year. The first year is the year in which you received your certificate, regardless of the month of issuance. For example, if you become certified on July 1, 2018 your certificate will expire December 31, 2020. Workers who were certified prior to June 1, 2018 will go to the 3-year cycle when they renew their certification or if they apply as a new applicant.

What are the requirements for renewal?
To renew a certificate an individual must:
- Submit a completed WVDEP "Certificate Renewal Application" form by November 1st of the year that the certificate expires.
- Pay the $125.00 renewal fee; and
- Prior to November 1st of the year that the certificate expires, complete sixteen (16) hours of WVDEP approved continuing education training courses relevant to the subject area for each class of certification and submit documentation with the application that the approved training has been completed. Also, submit documentation with the application proving that the individual has participated in at least one (1) job annually applicable to the certification class within the three (3) year certification period

OR

- Submit documentation with the application proving that the individual has participated in at least one (1) job applicable to the class of certification within the 3-year certification period. Pay a $125.00 examination fee.
- In addition to the above, Class C certified workers must submit a copy of their current certification by the manufacturer of each test method that they are and will be using.
- In addition to the above, Class D and E certified workers must submit a copy of their current certification by NACE or another approved equivalent.

What qualifies as continuing education training courses for recertification purposes?
Only courses approved by the WVDEP for UST Worker Certification program may be utilized for recertification purposes. A current list of approved courses may be found on the WVDEP UST web page.

How many hours of continuing education training and experience is required for recertification?
The amount of continuing education credits for renewal is 16 hours per class of certification (8 hours of which may be safety).   For renewal, you must show that you participated in at least one job annually applicable to the class of certification within the prior certification period.

What kind of documentation will an individual receive as evidence of certification?
The WVDEP will issue a certification identification card. This card must be presented upon request by a representative of the WVDEP or an owner or operator of a UST system.

When will a certificate or its renewal be denied or revoked?

An individual could be denied a certificate or renewal of a certificate or have a certificate revoked for the following reasons:
-Failure to achieve a passing score on the written examination
-Failure to submit required documentation
-Failure to be physically on-site performing or providing direct oversight of the work required under the certification
-Previous revocation of a certificate held by the individual
-Evidence of fraud or deceit in the certification applications
-Failure to present the certification identification card upon request
-Violations of the laws or rules of West Virginia
-For ethical considerations
-Failure to follow the protocols and/or policies established by the Secretary of the WVDEP