

VAP BIOCRITERIA RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Recertification Requirements

An individual who has successfully completed Ohio EPA's biocriteria certification course and received biocriteria certification can extend their original two-year certification three additional years (for a total of five years) by meeting the following requirements:

Individuals Certified to Conduct Fish Assessment: up to three, one-year extensions are allowed based on the individual providing reports or studies to Ohio EPA which document the use of the certified fish assessment method as detailed in the following documents:

Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life:
Volume II: Users Manual for Biological Field Assessment of Ohio Surface Waters, October 30, 1987 (Updated January 1, 1988)

Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life:
Volume III: Standardized Biological Field Sampling and Laboratory Methods for Assessing Fish and Macroinvertebrate Communities (First Update September 30, 1989)

Addendum (September 30, 1989) to Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life: Volume II: Users Manual for Biological Field Assessment of Ohio Surface Waters, October 30, 1987.

For each yearly extension, at least one report or study from the previous calendar year must to be submitted to Ohio EPA. If the individual desires to maintain continuous certification, reports or studies should be submitted at least **30 days prior to the expiration of their certificate.**

Individuals Certified to Conduct Macroinvertebrate Assessment: up to three, one-year extensions are allowed based on the individual providing reports or studies to Ohio EPA which document the use of the certified macroinvertebrate assessment method as detailed in the following documents:

Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life:
Volume II: Users Manual for Biological Field Assessment of Ohio Surface Waters, October 30, 1987 (Updated January 1, 1988)

Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life:
Volume III: Standardized Biological Field Sampling and Laboratory Methods for Assessing Fish and Macroinvertebrate Communities (First Update September 30, 1989)

Addendum (September 30, 1989) to Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life: Volume II: Users Manual for Biological Field Assessment of Ohio Surface Waters, October 30, 1987.

For each yearly extension, at least one study from the previous calendar year must be submitted to Ohio EPA. If the individual desires to maintain continuous certification,

reports or studies should be submitted at least **30 days prior to the expiration of their certificate.**

Individuals Certified to Conduct Physical Habitat Assessment: up to three, one-year extensions are allowed based on the individual providing reports or studies to Ohio EPA which document the use of the certified physical habitat assessment method as detailed in the following document:

Biological Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life:
Volume III: Standardized Biological Field Sampling and Laboratory Methods for Assessing Fish and Macroinvertebrate Communities (First Update September 30, 1989)

For each yearly extension, at least one study from the previous calendar year needs to be submitted to Ohio EPA. If the individual desires to maintain continuous certification, reports or studies should be submitted at least **30 days prior to the expiration of their certificate.**

Submission of Reports or Studies

All studies or reports being submitted for certification renewal purposes should be mailed to:

Dave Altfater
Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water
Ecological Assessment Unit
4675 Homer-Ohio Lane
Groveport, Ohio 43215

Once all documentation submitted has been reviewed, the individual will be sent a letter indicating whether or not the studies or reports met the standards of the appropriate certified assessment method referenced above. If the standards are met, the individual will also receive a renewal certificate which will be valid for one year from the date of the previous certificate expiration.

Renewal Requirements After the Extension Period

After the five year period, the individual will need to re-sample the original test site(s) from the Biocriteria Training Course or new test sites and provide the raw data results to the Ohio EPA DSW/EAU for. The raw data will be entered in to the appropriate Ohio EPA databases and index scores will be calculated and compared to Ohio EPA generated results. As with the existing biocriteria certification program, a passing score of 80% is required to maintain the appropriate certification. If the professional receives a score below 80%, they will be required to attend the field portion of the biocriteria certification course pertaining to the certification method in question and pass the practical exams associated with the course.

Additional information concerning test sites for re-sampling will be provided prior to the

expiration of the individual's five-year extension period.

Renewal Requirements when a Certification Lapses

If an individual's certification has lapsed for a period of time greater than one year, he or she must attend and successfully complete the full Ohio EPA Biocriteria Certification Course. If an individual's certification has lapsed for a period of time of one year or less, they may recertify by meeting the requirements contained under the "Renewal Requirements After the Extension Period" listed above. **It is important to note that if an individual lets their certification expire, they cannot conduct biocriteria testing in support of a voluntary action unless their certification is renewed according to the above requirements.**

Questions?

Please contact Dave Altfater at 614-836-8786 or Amy Yersavich at 614-644-2285 if you have any questions concerning VAP Recertification requirements for biocriteria testing.