

**ARCHIVE:** Archived to revise and clarify the guidance within the document and because revisions made to VAP rules in 2002 in OAC Chapter 3745-300 render inaccurate the rule citations in this document (technical content remains accurate under the 1996 VAP rules). Refer to VA30005.03.002 for the updated document.

**TITLE:** What Is Considered Relevant Continuing Education?

**DATE EFFECTIVE:** September 1998

**KEYWORDS:** VAP, Relevant Continuing Education, Professional Development Hour Units, PDHU, RCE

**RULES:** OAC 3745-300-05

**QUESTION:** What Is Considered Relevant Continuing Education For Purposes of Fulfilling Certified Professional Rule Requirements?

**ANSWER:** To maintain certification, the Certified Professional is required by OAC 3745-300(D)(6) to complete a minimum of twenty-four hours of professional development hour units (PDHUs) of relevant continuing education during the previous year of certification. In order to be applicable toward this annual requirement, a course/activity must meet the definition of OAC 3745-300-05(A)(5) requiring that it have a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to activities as authorized under the Ohio VAP regulations (OAC 3745-300).

Ohio EPA does not compile a list of courses/activities which are applicable toward the continuing education recertification requirement. College courses, seminars, in-house courses, workshops, technical or professional meetings, conventions or conferences relevant to activities authorized under the VAP regulations include those pertaining to: investigation and remediation of hazardous substance and petroleum releases; and compliance with the environmental regulatory programs (underground injection control, solid and hazardous waste, underground storage tanks, PCBs, etc.) listed in OAC 3745-300-02(C) as necessary for eligibility in the VAP. Relevant courses/activities are those covering site assessment, remediation, removal, corrective action, or closure requirements under these programs. Courses required for asbestos inspector and management planner certifications are also relevant as continuing education for CP recertification.

As noted in OAC 3745-300-05(D)(10), PDHUs are not earned for worker health and safety training required under 29CFR 1910.120. Courses/activities or parts thereof, not applicable toward meeting the recertification requirement include but are not limited to those covering: non-scientific or nontechnical subjects such as contract management, budget control, or similar management activities; regulatory programs of other states; voluntary action funding; national policy; legal liability; project organization and scheduling; cost recovery; and data management.

Presenting, teaching, or instructing at relevant courses/activities earns twice the PDHUs that would be credited for attendance. If the required number of PDHUs is exceeded, the CP can request that a maximum of eight PDHUs be carried forward into the subsequent year.

Please read the Certified Professional Renewal Application Form instructions and OAC 3745-300-05(D)(11) for documentation requirements to support the PDHUs claimed. Documentation must demonstrate that the course/activity is relevant to activities authorized under the VAP regulations. Each time documents and information are submitted as part of the renewal application, they must be accompanied by an original affidavit from the applicant.

**SUMMARY:**

If you have any questions concerning interpretation of the Certified Professional rule (OAC3745-300-05) with respect to the relevance of a particular course/activity, please submit information describing the subject material covered by the course/activity. This information should be submitted to the VAP for review prior to completion of the course/activity or submittal of your application. If you have any questions concerning interpretation of the Certified Professional rule (OAC3745-300-05) with respect to the relevance of a particular course/activity, please submit information describing the subject material covered by the course/activity. This information should be submitted to the VAP for review prior to completion of the course/activity or submittal of your application.

**OHIO EPA  
CONTACT:**

For any questions concerning this issue, please contact the VAP central office at (614) 644-2924.