

567—102.11(455D) Compost operator certification.

102.11(1) General requirements. To become a certified compost facility operator, an individual shall complete a compost operator training course that has been approved by the department, then apply for certification by the department. An operator certified by another state may have reciprocity subject to approval by the department.

102.11(2) Course approval. To be approved by the department, an operator training course for a certified compost facility operator must have at least 24 contact hours and must address the following areas at a minimum:

- a. Basic principles of composting and decomposition.
- b. Composting methods.
- c. Site design and equipment.
- d. Characteristics of various types of feedstocks and recipe development.
- e. Construction of windrows or piles.
- f. Monitoring and troubleshooting.
- g. Uses and markets for compost.
- h. Applicable laws and regulations.

102.11(3) Form. Applications for certification shall be made on a form prescribed by the department.

102.11(4) Duration and renewal of certification. The department shall issue all compost operator certifications on a three-year cycle. This rule shall take effect relative solely to certifications on July 1, 2026, and a new cycle shall start at that time. The department may issue a certification at any time during a three-year cycle. Certificates are valid through the expiration date listed on the certification, which shall be the end of the most current cycle.

a. An application for renewal is due prior to expiration of certification. If a certificate holder fails to apply for renewal within 30 days following expiration of the certificate, the applicant must then apply for a new certification in accordance with 102.11(1).

b. To renew a certification, a certified operator must earn eight contact hours during each three-year period, except that a first-time certified operator is not required to earn contact hours prior to the first renewal of the certification. The certificates of operators not fulfilling the continuing education requirements will be void 30 days after the expiration date.

c. All activities for which contact hours will be granted must be related to compost and pre-approved by the department.

d. The certified operator is responsible for submitting an application for renewal that includes documentation of the contact hours completed during the renewal period.

e. The department may, in individual cases involving hardship or extenuating circumstances, grant an extension of time of up to three months within which the applicant may fulfill the contact hour requirements. Hardship or extenuating circumstances include documented health-related confinement or other circumstances beyond the control of the certified operator that prevent attendance at the required activities. All requests for extensions must be made prior to expiration of certification.

f. The deadline to apply for renewal and to fulfill continuing education requirements under this rule shall automatically be extended a length of time equal to any period in which the operator served honorably on active duty in military service within the three-year renewal cycle.

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