

Changes In NYRWA Home Study Courses



by Jamie Herman,
Training Specialist

By now, many of you have probably noticed, our Home Study Initial Certification Courses are no longer posted on our website. As was mentioned in a previous article, the NYS Dept. of Health is requiring changes to initial certification course requirements in the near future. In an attempt to meet the new requirements as prescribed by the NYSDOH, and as a means to better serve our member systems, we have decided to briefly suspend the use of our Home Study Courses. The staff is currently working to revamp the courses, so they will meet the future NYSDOH requirements, and provide the best possible training to our future operators.

Unfortunately, this process is very involved and time consuming. Currently we have revised the Grade D Home Study Initial Certification Course and have submitted it to the NYSDOH for review and approval. Our hope is to offer the new and improved course by June, and we will make every attempt possible for that to happen.

Another change is in the courses we will be providing. In the past, we offered Grades IIA, IIB, C, and D. Under the revised program, we hope to offer only Grades C & D. The new requirements are such that it would be very difficult to offer either a IIA or IIB course in the traditional home study fashion. Thus, classroom courses will be required for initial certification. We deeply apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but it is in the best interest of the operator and system that we make this decision.

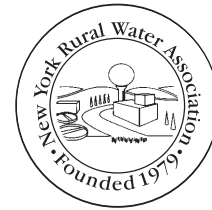
To comply with the new regulations, trainees will need to read and comprehend text book material, regulatory manuals, and complete a classroom "hands on" laboratory type training session in order to become certified. Basically, the course will be completed in the same fashion by completing assignments and then taking a final exam administered by the local health department. In addition, each trainee will also attend and complete a one day training session involving "hands on" laboratory practices. Once these elements are successfully completed, the local health dept. will administer an onsite assessment to verify the skills required by the trainee. Upon approval, the trainee will become a certified operator. The "hands on" laboratory session can be completed with any training provider, not just the NYRWA, although we offer these

sessions for your consideration.

Once our revised courses are approved and ready for distribution we will update our website and spread the word throughout our membership.

As always, the staff here at NYRWA wish to thank each of you for your patience and understanding. Be assured, we are working very hard to provide you with the highest quality product at the most economical price we can.

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to contact me at 1-888-697-8725 Ext. 13, or email Herman@nyruralwater.org.



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