

**NC Board of Sanitarian Examiners  
Guidance Material for Environmental Health Technicians**

Information provided in this document is meant to be used as guidance when employing non-registered individuals (technicians) in an Environmental Health Program. The intent of the Board is to provide a dividing line between responsibilities of Registered Sanitarians and those of technicians. To make the following determinations the Laws and Rules were the main factor in determining what duties could be allowed. The RS Board formed the Environmental Health Practice Committee which assisted in developing the following material. The Members of the Committee included: Len Gilstrap, Dicke Sloop, John Barkley, Holly Coleman, Ray Silverthorne, Mimi Cooper, David Stone, William Hill, Lawrence Caviness, Terry Chappell, and Kris Joyce. The final approval of duties included in this document is the decision of the RS Board.

A technician classified under this document may perform a supportive role under the supervision of a RS (supervisor) in public health programs regulated by DEH-DENR.

A technician, not registered as an RS, will not be represented by the Attorney General's office and is at risk for violations of RS rules and could be prosecuted if it is determined that he/she is doing anything that requires registration as a Registered Sanitarian.

The person authorized to enforce state laws and rules by the Division of Environmental Health who supervises the technician is ultimately responsible for the actions of the technician. The supervising Registered Sanitarian can not be put in to a position that makes them liable for the actions of a technician given duties that require registration as a Registered Sanitarian.

Technicians may not make determinations that result in enforcement or permit action. No permit action (such as closing a pool) – may be taken even with local rules. Such action would require bringing in a RS for confirmation and/or permit action.

Local Rules have different needs and requirements. Program regulated by DENR-DEH require more discretion. Decisions that ultimately affect the permitting of a facility or site may not be made by a technician.

Technicians may not make judgmental decisions but could make objective calls such as measurements and yes/no answers. Judgement calls related to issuance of permits requires the expertise of a Registered Sanitarian.

The supervising Registered Sanitarian must make the decision that the technician is adequately trained and responsible enough to assume the duties allowed for the technician.

Technicians deal with the smallest risk items. Anything they might do that could endanger public health or cause a liability should be excluded as job duties.

**Duties, unless clearly non-RS duties, need approval from the RS Board.  
Anything that requires authorization requires an RS.**

### **Examples of acceptable duties for a technician**

This is not a complete list but will be added to as new duties are identified. The Board recommends getting Board approval of any duties not specified below prior to allowing a technician to assume the responsibility.

#### All Programs:

- Educational outreach using prepared material, disseminate material, answer general questions.
- Surveillance for unpermitted establishments, illegal operations related to public health programs.
- Health promotion surveys.

#### Onsite

- Surveys
- Verify lot preparation for evaluations by RS
- Cover checks
- Septic tank and pump tank water test measurements
- Assist RS on inspection compliance visits
- Schedule inspections
- Maintain and update lists of owners and operators and contracts
- Data Capture and Compilation
- Track repair permits and NOV's
- Dye systems
- GPS tracking
- Limited complaint investigation (verification)

#### Food and Lodging

- Teach serve safe
- Conduct outbreak interviews with a developed questionnaire
- Collect identified samples
- Collect water samples
- Data capture and compilation
- Limited complaint investigation (verification)

#### Lead

- Teaching
- Interviews with developed questionnaires
- Data capture and compilation
- Assist with surveys and investigations
- Sampling (RS deals with clearance)
- XRF certification

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Daycare

- Collect water samples

Wells

- Collect samples (no analysis)
- Data capture and compilation
- GPS tracking

Swimming Pools

- Sampling (no action)
- Confirmation visits for compliance corrections.

Tattoo

- None at this time

Complaints

- Preliminary survey
- Investigation of solid waste, drainage and non authorized programs.

Indoor Air Quality

- Most anything including education, sampling, radon checks, CO programs, investigations.

Inland Recreational Waters

- Sampling
- Post advisories and notices

Vector

- Any Activity

Animal Control

- Any activity

Solid Waste

- Any activity

Migrant Housing

- Collect water samples

Meth. Labs

- Any activity