

## CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER (CSW) OPERATOR SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL (SESC) Inspector and SESC Plan Review & Design Training Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### CONTENTS

1. Where can I find training dates and exam locations for CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training and SESC Plan Review & Design Training? .....	2
2. Who needs CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training? .....	2
3. Who needs SESC Plan Review & Design Training?.....	2
4. If I have a valid CSW Operator Certification from several years ago, do I need to retake the CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training? .....	2
5. What is the difference between the Self-Study SESC Plan Review & Design Exam and the SESC Plan Review & Design Training and Exam? .....	2
6. If my CSW Operator Certification expires on July of this year, can I take the SESC Plan Review & Training exam in May? .....	3
7. I have the SESC Plan Review & Design Training and CSW Operator Training. I only need inspector training for my job. Which certificate number and expiration date should I go by? .....	3
8. Can I take the CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training on the same day as the SESC Plan Design and Review exam? .....	3
9. How long do I have to pay for my exams once I have taken them?.....	3
10. Is the CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training a new requirement for SESC Agency Personnel?.....	3
11. How long does it take to receive the results of my exam or my certification?.....	3
12. Do I need to maintain copies of inspection logs? .....	4
13. Can the CSW Operator and the SESC inspector duties be performed by the same person on a site? .....	4
14. Can the Part 91 Agency perform CSW Operator Inspections for a permittee?.....	4
15. Can I review and approve SESC plans or issue permits for my own projects to meet Part 91 requirements, if I hold a SESC Plan Review & Design Training certificate?.....	4
16. How long are my certifications good for? .....	4
17. How do I renew my certifications? .....	4
18. How do I update my certification information with EGLE?.....	5
19. Does completing the CSW Operator Training and/or the SESC Plan Review & Design Training provide me with Continuing Education Credits (CECs)?.....	5
20. Who do I call if I have additional questions? ` .....	5

**1. Where can I find training dates and exam locations for CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training and SESC Plan Review & Design Training?**

You can find detailed information about the CSW/SESC Inspector Training and the SESC Plan Review & Design Training by going to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Water Resources Division's (WRD's) soil erosion webpage, [Michigan.gov/SoilErosion](http://Michigan.gov/SoilErosion), and selecting the first link under the heading "Training Information" titled: "[Soil Erosion /Construction Storm Water Operator Training Information](#)." Be sure to scroll down to view information for [SESC Plan Review & Design Training](#).

**2. Who needs CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training?**

If you are working on a site with an earth change over one (1) acre in size with a point source discharge to waters of the state, the site will need to be under the oversight of a Certified Construction Storm Water Operator. Sites over five (5) acres in size with a point source discharge to waters of the state will not be issued a Notice of Coverage until they have a Certified Construction Storm Water Operator for the site. The certified operator can be anyone from the landowner to an excavator as long as they hold a valid CSW training certificate.

If you are working for a Part 91 Enforcing Agency or Authorized Public Agency (see [Part 91 Agency list](#)), all individuals responsible for making decisions related to soil erosion and sedimentation control are required to have a valid certificate of training. EGLE has determined that the Construction Storm Water Operator Certification is equivalent to inspector level training for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. The Construction Storm Water Operator Certification is also the prerequisite for SESC Plan Review & Design Training. All employees or contractors for the Part 91 Agency who are responsible for making Soil Erosion related decisions for the Part 91 agency are required to have, at a minimum, inspector level training.

**3. Who needs SESC Plan Review & Design Training?**

If you work for a Part 91 Enforcing Agency or Authorized Public Agency (see [Part 91 Agency list](#)), those individuals responsible for plan review and/or design, permit issuance determinations, and decisions on enforcement actions are required to have a valid SESC Plan Review & Design Training certificate. At a minimum, at least one individual must have SESC Plan Review & Design Training. Consultants or others may take SESC Plan Review & Design Training to further their understanding of the Part 91 plan review and design expectations; however, the ability to make decisions under the certification is contingent upon employment or contracting with a Part 91 agency.

**4. If I have a valid CSW Operator Certification from several years ago, do I need to retake the CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training?**

No. Provided you have maintained a valid Construction Storm Water Operator Certification, you do not need to retake the training at this time. If you fail to renew your certification, you will be required to retake the exam.

**5. What is the difference between the Self-Study SESC Plan Review & Design Exam and the SESC Plan Review & Design Training and Exam?**

Self-study exams are offered more frequently and do not include training. The self-study option is designed for individuals who already have a good grasp of materials presented in Chapters 6-8 of the Certified Storm Water Operator and SESC Training manual and who are prepared to study for the exam on their own.

The SESC Plan Review & Design Training and exam consists of a full day of training on materials covered by the Certified Storm Water Operator and SESC Training Manual with the exam on a following day. Individuals are still expected to study the materials presented in Chapter 6-8, but they receive additional training on plan review and design.

**6. If my CSW Operator Certification expires on July of this year, can I take the SESC Plan Review & Training exam in May?**

Yes. If you have a valid Construction Storm Water Operator Certification at the time you register and take the SESC Plan Review & Design exam, you may take the SESC Plan Review & Design Training.

**7. I have the SESC Plan Review & Design Training and CSW Operator Training. I only need inspector training for my job. Which certificate number and expiration date should I go by?**

If you only need inspector training, then you can go by the Construction Storm Water Operator certificate and expiration date.

**8. Can I take the CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training on the same day as the SESC Plan Design and Review exam?**

To determine if both exams can be taken on the same day, please contact EGLE at the [district location](#) you are interested in (<https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/WRD/About-Us/Staff-SESC.pdf>).

**9. How long do I have to pay for my exams once I have taken them?**

You have 90 days from the date of the exam to pay for it. If payment is not received within 90 days, your test is considered an automatic fail and you will not be allowed to retest until any previous exam fees have been paid.

**10. Is the CSW Operator/SESC Inspector Training a new requirement for SESC Agency Personnel? No,** SESC training requirements have always had an Inspector component. Based on feedback from individuals required to obtain Certifications in Construction Storm Water and Training in Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, EGLE decided to create an inspection level certification that included Construction Storm Water Operator elements and separate it from the plan review and design elements of Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. This separation was to allow individuals who only inspect sites and who will never design or review a SESC plan to have a single test which covers both SESC inspector training and Certified Storm Water Operator Training.

Individuals who are required to obtain SESC Plan Review & Design Training because they do SESC plan review and design, must have a good understanding of how the SESC measures function and how they must be maintained; therefore, EGLE decided that the Certified Storm Water Operator/SESC inspector test is a prerequisite for the more advanced Plan Review & Design Training. SESC Plan Review & Design Training has always included an inspector requirements portion and a plan review and design portion, it has now just been separated into two parts.

**11. How long does it take to receive the results of my exam or my certification?**

Exam results or certifications are typically available 4-6 weeks after EGLE has received payment for the exam.

**12. Do I need to maintain copies of inspection logs?**

Yes, the permittee must maintain copies of inspection logs for 3 years.

**13. Can the CSW Operator and the SESC inspector duties be performed by the same person on a site?**

Yes. If the person performing the inspections is working for a Part 91 Agency, one (1) inspection can count for both Construction Storm Water Operator Requirements and SESC inspector requirements. This situation commonly occurs with Authorized Public Agencies. Private construction sites can utilize the Part 91 Agency Inspector as the Construction Storm Water Operator if the Part 91 Agency agrees to perform this service. In those cases, the SESC inspection would count as a Construction Storm Water inspection and vice versa. **NOTE:** The inspection frequency for Storm Water Operators can be more frequent than that required of Part 91 SESC inspectors. Storm Water Operator inspections must be conducted at least once weekly and within 24 hours of any precipitation event that result in a discharge of storm water from the site.

**14. Can the Part 91 Agency perform CSW Operator Inspections for a permittee?**

Yes. If contracted to do so, the Part 91 Agency can perform CSW inspections for the permittee. **NOTE:** Costs associated with such an agreement may be more than normal SESC permit fees because the required inspection frequency for Storm Water Operator Inspections may be greater than the frequency required for Part 91, soil erosion oversight. Storm Water Operator inspections must be conducted at least once weekly and within 24 hours of any precipitation event that result in a discharge of storm water from the site. The Part 91 Agency Inspector would need to make sure to provide copies of all inspections to the landowner.

**15. Can I review and approve SESC plans or issue permits for my own projects to meet Part 91 requirements if I hold a SESC Plan Review & Design Training certificate?**

**Depending on whether you work for a Part 91 Agency,** you may review and approve your own soil erosion plans or issue a permit to your agency. It is important to note, however, that only a person employed by or contracting for a Part 91 Agency can utilize his or her SESC Plan Review & Design certification in such a manner. SESC Plan Review & Design certification for individuals who do not work for a Part 91 Agency is informational only.

**16. How long are my certifications good for?**

The Construction Storm Water Certifications are valid until July 1, five (5) years from the year in which you take and pass the exam. SESC Plan Review & Design certificates issued after January 1, 2012, will also follow the aforementioned renewal schedule with certifications being valid until July 1, five (5) years from the year in which you take and pass the exam.

**17. How do I renew my certifications?**

For Construction Storm Water Operator Certification, you will receive renewal notification by mail in January five (5) years from the year you took and passed the exam or last renewed your certification. Renewals are due by July 1 of the year of expiration of certification. A \$95 renewal fee and a post card with updated information must be submitted to EGLE. The renewal form can be found at [Michigan.gov/SoilErosion](http://Michigan.gov/SoilErosion) (select “**Construction Storm Water Operator Renewal Form**” under the Training header).

For SESC Plan Review & Design Training, you will be required to attend a refresher course prior to the expiration.

**18. How do I update my certification information with EGLE?**

Contact Alyssa Sarver, EGLE Water Resources Division, at 517-881-1371 or [SarverA@Michigan.gov](mailto:SarverA@Michigan.gov).

**19. Does completing the CSW Operator Training and/or the SESC Plan Review & Design Training provide me with Continuing Education Credits (CECs)?**

EGLE does not plan to seek qualification of the soil erosion inspector/construction storm water operator or SESC Plan Review & Design training for CECs by any certifying organization.

Both the Construction Storm Water Operator Training and the SESC Plan Review & Design may be eligible for continuing education credits depending on the nature of the certification these credits are needed for and that certification's specific requirements.

The training confirmation email provided when you register for training and the certification provided when you pass the exam following the training *may* include the information necessary to ensure that the training may be eligible for CECs. It is up to the person of who CECs are required to maintain and/or submit any necessary information to the certifying or licensing body as appropriate to determine if the CECs are acceptable.

**20. Who do I call if I have additional questions? `**

Questions related to who might need training should be directed [EGLE WRD district staff](#)

(<https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/WRD/About-Us/Staff-SESC.pdf>)

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