

How to Become a Maine Registered Radon Service Provider

As stated in the Maine Radon Registration Act (MRSA section 771 et. seq.) regardless of any other professional or environmental credentials you may have, if you or your company plans to provide ANY radon services (sampling, analysis, mitigating, advising) in this state or for the residents of this state, you must be registered with the Radon Section of the Maine Radiation Control Program. Generally, there are only **2 exceptions** to this law:

- 1)** A homeowner or resident of a structure can test or mitigate that structure; however, if the residence is for sale, this exception is not applicable.
- 2)** Post-mitigation (system verification) testing can be conducted by the homeowner or resident of the structure.

Requirements to become a Maine registered radon service provider for testers and mitigators

For those who plan to provide on-site (in the house) radon services, there are 3 steps to fulfilling the requirements for becoming a Maine “registered radon service provider.” These are:

- 1) Successfully complete an approved radon training course covering the radon service you plan to provide (air testing, water testing, air mitigation, or water mitigation).
- 2) Pass an approved national certification exam (air testing or air mitigation only).
- 3) Register with the Radon Section
- 4) Maintain Registration and Renew Registration Yearly

STEP 1) Radon Testing or Mitigation Training:

Radon Testing:

Air Testing: (collecting radon samples for analysis by a state registered radon laboratory- also called measurement or sampling): Typically two days of classroom training covering basic radiation information, health hazards associated with the radiation from radon (and other sources), radon characteristics, radon sources, radon

test devices, testing (measurement) protocols, quality assurance, and other topics including a little on radon in water as a source for radon in air. Many training options are available, including several “distance learning” courses. See the links to approved training courses below. If you wish to take a radon training course from an institution not listed at the websites listed below, please contact our office (1-800-232-0842 / 207-287-5698).

Water Testing: Typically one day of classroom training covering some of the basic topics in radon in air courses, as well as radon in water testing devices and procedures, special concerns when testing for radon in water, radon in water mitigation methods, and issues related to radon in water mitigation. The same course is required for radon in water mitigation. Currently the only two recognized radon in water training courses are the Eastern Regional Radon Training Center's Radon in Water course and Spruce Environmental Technologies, Inc's Radon in Water course (course registration details can be found on websites listed below).

Radon Mitigation:

Air Mitigation: A five day course, with the first two days covering almost exactly the same material as covered in the air testing course. The last three days are “hands-on” mitigation training, and can be taken separately for those who have previously taken the air testing course. The “hands-on” training includes pre-mitigation diagnostics and experience designing and installing a sub-slab depressurization system. Tell your instructor that Maine uses ASTM E 2121 as the mitigation standard.

Water Mitigation: Typically one day of classroom training covering some of the basic topics in radon in air courses, as well as radon in water testing devices and procedures, special concerns when testing for radon in water, radon in water mitigation methods, and issues related to radon in water mitigation. The same course is required for radon in water testing. Currently the only two recognized radon in water training courses are the Eastern Regional Radon Training Center's Radon in Water course and Spruce Environmental Technologies, Inc's Radon in Water course (course registration details can be found on websites listed below).. After taking this class, those who are teaming with, or who are themselves a licensed plumber can install radon water mitigation systems.

State of Maine Approved Radon Instruction

The Maine Radon Section has adopted the policy that it will accept all National Environmental Health Association's National Radon Proficiency Program (NEHA-NRPP) and National Radon Safety Board (NRSB) approved radon courses for both initial training and continuing education. This will greatly expand the existing opportunities for obtaining radon instruction for all radon service providers. Please remember, however, that the Maine Radon Registration Act and the Air and Water Radon Service Provider's Registration Rules, and all other Maine specific regulations and policies supersede any conflicting information that may be dispensed in these national training modules. It is the

Maine Radon Service Providers responsibility to ensure that they are aware of all Maine radon requirements, some of which vary from the EPA protocols or those from other states.

NEHA-NRPP Approved Radon Instruction Pages:

[National Radon Proficiency Program - Entry-Level Radon Measurement and Mitigation Courses](#)
[National Radon Proficiency Program - Continuing Education Courses](#)

NRSB Approved Radon Instruction Page:

[NRSB: Radon Education Providers](#)

Step 2) Radon Measurement (Testing) or Mitigation Exam:

Every individual who has been trained to perform radon services on-site (at the client's building) must take and pass the appropriate exam offered by one of the recognized national radon certification bodies. Maine currently recognizes both the National Environmental Health Association's National Radon Proficiency Program, and their Radon Measurement (aka testing) and Radon Mitigation exams; and the National Radon Safety Board and their Radon Measurement Specialist and Radon Mitigation Specialist exams. Generally, the exams are offered by the training provider during the evening of the last day of class, or the next morning, and cost between \$100 and \$125. If you decide to take a "distance learning course" for air testing, you have the options of arranging for the Radon Section to proctor the exam at its Augusta office, or you can designate a community or school official to do so closer to your home. Tests offered by the NEHA-NRPP can also be taken through LaserGrade at several testing centers in Maine:

[LASERGRADE Computer-based testing](#)

Step 3) State Registration:

Contact the Radon Section at 1-800-232-0842 (in Maine only) or 207-287-5698 or email to radon.dhhs@maine.gov to request a "registration package". In addition to a registration form for your company and its employees, this package contains various important memorandums that supplement the state specific rules and regulations found in the Maine Radon Registration Act, and associated rules. For those intending to register to provide radon measurement (testing) services, you can request a guidance document for preparing your required "**Quality Assurance Plan**" (QA plan) for radon

sample collection. A QA plan is vital to ensure that you take all the steps on your end of the radon testing process that are necessary to produce accurate and precise radon results that can be defended. You can submit your registration application, support documentation, and fees prior to the development of a QA plan, but must have a nearly final draft submitted to our office within 90 days of your registration. For those intending to register to provide radon mitigation services, remember that the mitigation standard is ASTM E 2121; also remember that other Maine laws require that electricians must do the electrical part of any mitigation systems, and plumbers must do the plumbing part of radon in water systems.

All who choose to register as a radon service provider must submit a completed and signed registration application, copies of course completion certificates, copies of the notification of passing the appropriate exam including the breakdown of correct answers in each topic area, and appropriate fees for the company and each individual who will be providing radon services on-site (at the client's structure). Also, for testers who will be using continuous radon monitors or electrets with the reader, you are also considered an evaluator/lab and must submit proof of proficiency. See the requirements for evaluators/labs (below) for additional information.

Requirements to become a Maine registered radon service provider for evaluators/labs

All evaluators/labs that choose to register as a Maine registered radon service provider must submit a completed and signed registration application, appropriate fees, and:

Radon in air evaluators/labs:

For radon in air Labs (including testers using direct read continuous monitors and electret readers), you must prove that you are proficient in analyzing the radon test devices you offer. Proof of proficiency is by certification as a radon analysis laboratory by a recognized radon certification program such as the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA-NRPP), or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB); or passing a radon air proficiency testing through the Bowser-Morner Radon Calibration Laboratory. Also required is submitting a current quality assurance plan and standard operating procedures that follow or are consistent with the National Radon Proficiency Program Guidance on Quality Assurance (EPA 402-R-95-012, October 1997) Chapter 9.

Radon in water evaluators/labs:

For radon in water labs, you must prove that you are proficient in analyzing the radon test devices you offer. Proof of proficiency will consist of providing proof that the Lab uses a standard method approved by US EPA or other method developed by a national or international standard setting body. Also required is providing a copy of the

current quality assurance plan for radon in water measurements which shall include but not be limited to a description of and schedule for analysis of blanks, spikes (if possible), inter-lab comparative studies, and other criteria and calculations used to assess quality assurance. Additionally, proof of past and current successful participation in regular radon in water lab inter-comparisons shall be provided.

Registration fees are as follows:

CATEGORY I:

RADON TESTERS AND EVALUATORS (Labs):

Company Fee: \$150.00 per year

Principle of Company: No Fee

On-site Worker: \$150.00 per year

“Supervised Worker”: \$75.00 per year

CATEGORY II:

RADON MITIGATION CONTRACTORS:

Company Fee: \$75.00 per year

Principle of Company: No Fee

On-site Worker: \$75.00 per year

“Supervised Worker”: \$50.00 per year

(Note: The registration year is October 1 to September 30. Any new registrations received between April 1 and September 1 will be pro-rated by half for that registration year.)

All companies and individuals who successfully become registered as a Maine radon service provider will be assigned a Maine Radon Service Provider registration ID number, will receive documentation to verify they are registered for one or two years (depending on the options selected on the application). Documentation for individuals will be sent to the company that applied for their registration.

What happens next?

To maintain your status as a “Registered Radon Service Provider”, you must:

- **Submit** an acceptable **“Quality Assurance Plan”** (if it was not included with your registration application).
- **Submit all monthly reports** (even if you did no testing or mitigation that month). Remember- ***reports are due on a monthly basis (even if you did no radon work that month), NOT at year’s end!***
- **Complete 8 radon-related continuing education credits every year** if you are a tester or mitigator; or **12 credits a year** if you are registered as both a tester and a mitigator. See our page on Continuing Education (for more information on this topic: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/eng/rad/Radon/RN_Service_Providers_CEU.htm).

- **Send** the Radon Section **notification of changes in company and/or individual information within five business days of that change.** Examples of changes that require notification include new address, new phone number, or termination of an individual's employment.
- **Follow** proper **protocols, standards, and guidance.**

Approximately one month before your Maine Radon Service Provider registration expires, you will receive a renewal notice and application. To renew the registration for a company and the associated individuals, submit the completed renewal forms and any required supporting documents, copies of certificates for continuing education activities, appropriate fees, updates to QA plans, and any late reports. All renewal applications are reviewed, and approved if everything is determined to be in order and there are no open investigations looking into allegations of improper testing or mitigation.

Please contact us if you have any other questions.

Radon.dhhs@maine.gov

1-800-232-0842 (in Maine)

207-287-5698 (out of state)