

# Module 1: Introduction to the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP)

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Objectives

- Differentiate between the localities that must adopt and administer a VSMP and those entities that may adopt and administer a VSMP.
- State a VSMP authority's required inspection frequency during and after construction.
- Explain the requirements for who must be certified.
- List the options for recertification.

# 1a. Overview of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program

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## GOAL

(§62.1-44.15:25)

The goal of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) is to ensure the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth, and to protect the quality and quantity of state waters from the potential harm of unmanaged stormwater.

The VSMP addresses stormwater management at three critical phases:



**Before construction** starts through the review and approval of plans to ensure the local and state regulatory design criteria have been satisfied to protect state waters from unmanaged stormwater.



**During construction** through the inspection of erosion and sediment control (ESC) practices, pollution prevention measures, and the installation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that are used to prevent or reduce the pollution of state waters after construction is complete.

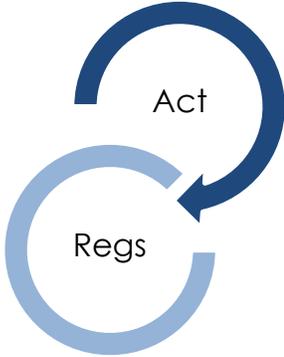


**After construction** through the inspection of BMPs to ensure proper maintenance is being performed by the owner.

## AUTHORITY

(§62.1-44.15:24 et al.)

The Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) is authorized by the Virginia Stormwater Management Act (Act), and administered through the Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulations (Regulations).



It is important to remember that the Virginia Stormwater Management Program **does not** limit the applicability of other laws and regulations, including, but not limited to the Clean Water Act, Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (9VAC25-870-47).

## **VIRGINIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM “VSMP”**

(§62.1-44.15:24)

A Virginia Stormwater Management Program is defined in the Act as:

A program approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Board after September 13, 2011, and until June 30, 2013, or the State Water Control Board (Board) on and after June 30, 2013, that has been established by a VSMP authority to manage the quality and quantity of runoff resulting from land-disturbing activities and shall include such items as local ordinances, rules, permit requirements, annual standards and specifications, policies and guidelines, technical materials, and requirements for plan review, inspection, enforcement, where authorized in this article, and evaluation consistent with the requirements of this article and associated regulations.

## **VIRGINIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM “VSMP” AUTHORITY**

(§62.1-44.15:24)

A Virginia Stormwater Management Program authority is defined in the Act as:

An authority approved by the Board after September 13, 2011, to operate a Virginia Stormwater Management Program or, until such approval is given, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). An authority may include a locality, state entity, federal entity, or, for linear projects subject to annual standards and specifications in accordance with subsection B of § 62.1-44.15:31, electric, natural gas, and telephone utility companies, interstate and intrastate natural gas pipeline companies, railroad companies, or authorities created pursuant to § 15.2-5102.

## **REQUIREMENTS TO ADMINISTER A VSMP**

(§62.1-44.15:27)

The Act requires certain localities to adopt a VSMP and allows other localities and entities to choose whether to adopt or not. DEQ is the VSMP authority for all localities and entities that do not adopt a VSMP.

A VSMP authority may enter into agreements or contracts with soil and water conservation districts, adjacent localities, or other public or private entities to carry out or assist with the responsibilities of administering a VSMP.

**Localities that MUST adopt a VSMP**

<b>MS4 localities</b>
Localities that operate a regulated MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) must adopt and administer a VSMP.

**Entities that MAY adopt a VSMP**

<b>Non-MS4 localities</b>	<b>Non-localities</b>
Localities that do not operate a regulated MS4 may adopt and administer a VSMP.	<p>The following entities may adopt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State entities</li> <li>• Federal entities</li> <li>• Linear projects subject to annual standards and specifications               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Electric</li> <li>○ Natural gas</li> <li>○ Telephone</li> <li>○ Interstate + intrastate natural gas pipeline companies</li> <li>○ Railroads</li> <li>○ Authorities (§ 15.2-5102)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>DEQ administers enforcement for these programs.</p>

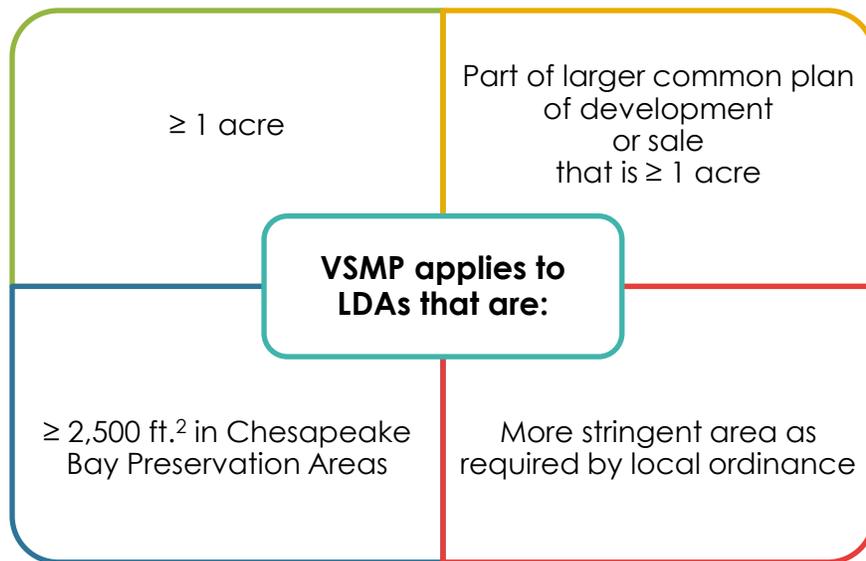
## Regulated land-disturbing activities

(§ 62.1-44.15:24, §62.1-44.15:33, §62.1-44.15:34)

A land-disturbing activity (LDA) is defined in the Act as a man-made change to the land surface that potentially changes its runoff characteristics including clearing, grading, or excavation.

The VSMP only applies to the following land-disturbing activities:

- Greater than or equal to one acre;
- Part of larger common plan of development or sale that is greater than or equal to one acre (e.g., commercial subdivision);
- Greater than or equal to 2,500 square feet in Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; and
- More stringent area as required by local ordinance.

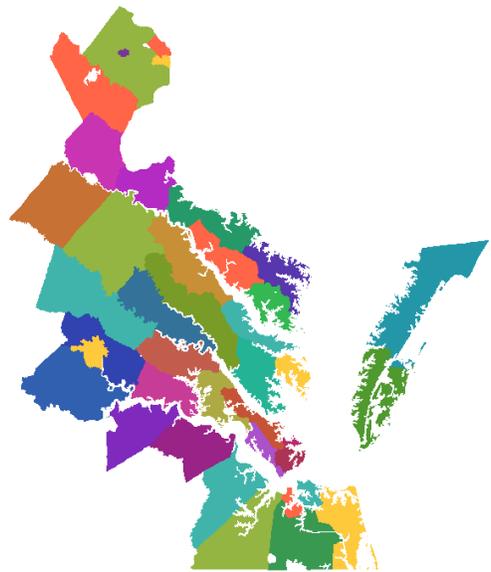


## Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Land-Disturbing Activity

(§62.1-44.15:24, :27, :34, 9VAC25-870-10, 51, 103)

A Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Land-Disturbing Activity (CBPA LDA) is defined in the Act and Regulations as a land-disturbing activity including clearing, grading, or excavation that results in a land disturbance ***equal to or greater than 2,500 square feet and less than one acre*** in all areas of jurisdictions designated as ***subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations*** (9VAC25-830) adopted pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Localities subject to the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act ***may*** regulate single-family residences separately built and disturbing less than one acre where land disturbance exceeds 2,500 square feet (§ 62.1-44.15:34).



CBPA LDA:  
≥ 2,500 ft.<sup>2</sup> and < 1 acre

As an inspector, you need to know that CBPA LDAs ***must*** have the following:

- A VSMP authority permit, where applicable, issued before the start of the land-disturbing activity
- Approved erosion and sediment control plan
- Approved stormwater management plan
- Long-term maintenance agreement

CBPA LDAs ***do not*** require:

- Construction GP
- Pollution prevention plan
- Additional control measures to address a TMDL
- VSMP retention of construction record drawings

## Exemptions

(§ 62.1-44.15:34)

The following activities are exempt from the Act:



Permitted surface or deep mining operations and projects, or oil and gas operations and projects conducted under the provisions of Title 45.1



Clearing of lands specifically for agricultural purposes, harvesting of forest crops, livestock feedlot operations, and agricultural engineering operations



Single-family residences separately built and disturbing less than one acre and that are not part of a larger common plan of development or sale, including additions or modifications to existing single-family detached residential structures.

***However, localities subject to the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act may regulate these single-family residences where land disturbance exceeds 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup>.***



Discharges to a sanitary sewer or a combined sewer system



Activities regulated under a state or federal reclamation program to return abandoned property to an agricultural or open land use



Routine maintenance that is performed to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original construction of the project. The paving of an existing road with a compacted or impervious surface and reestablishment of existing associated ditches and shoulders is considered routine maintenance if performed in accordance with the previous statement



Conducting land-disturbing activities in response to a public emergency where the related work requires immediate authorization to avoid imminent endangerment to human health or the environment. In such situations, the VSMP authority shall be advised of the disturbance within seven days of commencing land-disturbing activity, and shall submit a permit application within 30 days of starting the land-disturbing activity

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## **CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMIT**

(9VAC25-880)

Land-disturbing activities that will disturb one acre or more or are part of a larger common plan of development or sale that will disturb one acre or more, must obtain coverage under the General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities (Construction GP), which authorizes stormwater discharges from large and small construction activities. The permit cycle is July 1, 2014 through July 30, 2019. Noncompliance with the Construction GP is a violation of the Virginia Stormwater Management Act.

The VSMP authority reviews the application package for coverage under the Construction GP. The permit is issued by DEQ. This process is discussed in Module 3. DEQ is responsible for enforcing the Construction GP while locality VSMP authorities are responsible for enforcing the local permit.

### **Operator**

(9VAC25-870-10)

An operator is defined in the Regulations as:

The owner or operator of any facility or activity subject to the Act and Regulations. In the context of the Construction GP, operator means any person associated with a construction project that meets either of the following two criteria:

1. The person has direct operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications, or
2. The person has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project that are necessary to ensure compliance with a stormwater pollution prevention plan for the site or other state permit or VSMP authority permit conditions (i.e., they are authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the stormwater pollution prevention plan or comply with other permit conditions).

## Locality VSMP authority permit requirements

(§62.1-44.15:27)

Locality VSMP authorities must issue a consolidated stormwater management and erosion and sediment control permit that is consistent with the provisions of the Erosion and Sediment Control Law. The permit must also include a copy of or reference to the Construction GP.

A locality VSMP authority may only approve the start of land disturbance ***after*** DEQ has issued the Construction GP. When the Construction GP is not required, authorization may be given after the required plans have been approved, initial terms of the long-term maintenance agreement have been submitted (as required), and any local fees have been paid (§62.1-44.15:27, 62.1-44.15:34).

## ROLES

### Program administrator

The role of a program administrator is to:

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	Confirm VSMP staff have the required certification(s)
	Ensure local ordinances or program documentation meet regulatory requirements
	Oversee permit application and termination processes for adherence to submittal requirements and timeframes
	Oversee inspection programs for adherence to regulatory requirements
	Coordinate enforcement proceedings
	Retain project records and inspection reports for required timeframes

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Compile and submit annual reports to DEQ

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## Inspector



Conduct regular inspections of active construction sites for:

- Compliance with the approved stormwater management plan to ensure proper construction and function of BMPs and other stormwater management facilities
  - Compliance with the approved erosion and sediment control plan
  - Development, updating and implementation of a pollution prevention (P2) plan
  - Development and implementation of any additional control measures necessary to address a TMDL
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## SWPPP

Ensure stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) documentation is updated and implemented as required

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Conduct post construction inspection to ensure stormwater management facilities are being adequately maintained as designed

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Document inspections

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Initiate enforcement action when needed

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Ensure compliance to correct deficiencies or violations

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## Plan reviewer



Responsible for review of stormwater management plans to ensure they adhere to the Regulations and local ordinance(s)

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## Combined administrator

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Responsible for performing the combined duties of a program administrator, plan reviewer, and project inspector

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## State Water Control Board

(§62.1-44.15:25)

The State Water Control Board (Board), composed of Virginia citizens appointed by the Governor, is responsible for the adoption of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulations, among other requirements. DEQ administers the regulations as approved by the Board.

In addition to the other powers and duties of the Board, the Act requires the Board to ***permit, regulate and control stormwater runoff*** and act to ensure the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth as well as protect the ***quality*** and ***quantity*** of state waters from the potential harm of unmanaged stormwater. The Board has oversight over all VSMPs.

## Department of Environmental Quality

(§62.1-44.15:30, 62.1-44.15:32)

DEQ is responsible for:

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Providing technical assistance, training and certification, research, and coordination in stormwater management technology to VSMP authorities.

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Reviewing stormwater management plans for any project with real or potential inter-jurisdictional impacts at the request of one or more of the involved localities to determine plan consistency. DEQ has ***90 days*** to complete the review and submit a report to each of the localities involved.

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## INSPECTIONS



Inspections play a critical role in ensuring compliance with the Construction GP, Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC), and VSMP Regulations, as well as protecting natural resources. Inspections take place during construction and after permit termination and by multiple parties.

### **VSMP authority inspections during construction**

(9VAC25-870-114)

The VSMP authority must ***periodically*** inspect a land-disturbing activity for:

- Compliance with the approved erosion and sediment control plan;
- Compliance with the approved stormwater management plan;
- Development, updating, and implementation of a P2 plan; and
- Development and implementation of any additional control measures necessary to address a TMDL.

### **VSMP authority inspections after construction**

(9VAC25-870-114)

VSMP authorities must ensure stormwater management facilities are inspected by the VSMP authority or its designee at least ***once every five years***. The inspections must be documented by records.

The VSMP authority may utilize the inspection reports of the owner of a stormwater management facility as part of its established inspection program if the inspection is conducted by a person who is licensed as a professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, or land surveyor; or a person who works under the direction and oversight of the licensed professional; or a person who holds an appropriate certificate of competence from the Board.

## Qualified personnel

(9VAC25-880-70 PART II F, 9VAC25-780-10)

The Construction GP requires qualified personnel to conduct SWPPP inspections. The VSMP Regulations define qualified personnel as:

A person knowledgeable in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment and stormwater management controls who possesses the skills to assess conditions at the construction site for the operator that could impact stormwater quality and quantity and to assess the effectiveness of any sediment and erosion control measures or stormwater management facilities selected to control the quality and quantity of stormwater discharges from the construction activity...

## Comparison of inspection requirements

The following four tables outline the inspection requirements for the VSMP and VESCP authority, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the qualified personnel.

- Table 1a-1 provides a brief overview of the Construction GP, VSMP, and ESC Regulations in relation to inspection requirements
- Table 1a-2 outlines construction inspections
- Table 1a-3 outlines construction inspections for state stormwater management annual standards and specifications
- Table 1a-4 outlines post-construction inspection criteria

Tables 1a-2, 3, and 4 include the term **measurable storm event**, which is defined in 9VAC25-880-1 as a rainfall event producing 0.25 inches of rain or greater over 24 hours.

**Overview**

Table 1a-1

<b>Construction GP Regulation</b> <u>(9VAC25-880)</u>	<b>ESC Regulation</b> <u>(9VAC25-840)</u>	<b>VSMP Regulation</b> <u>(9VAC25-870)</u>
Permit for stormwater discharges from regulated LDAs	Regulation for the effective control of soil erosion and sedimentation	Regulation for stormwater management for regulated land-disturbing activities
<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to develop and implement SWPPP, including ESC plan, stormwater management plan, and pollution prevention plan</li> <li>• SWPPP inspection criteria operators must carry out during construction to comply with SWPPP</li> </ul>	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum standards that must be met during construction</li> <li>• VESCP authority inspection frequency and criteria</li> <li>• Vegetative and structural design practices (i.e. ESC Handbook)</li> </ul>	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater pollution prevention measures that must take place during construction - including erosion and sediment controls - and post-construction stormwater management criteria</li> <li>• VSMP authority construction and post-construction inspection frequency and criteria</li> </ul>

### Construction Inspections

Table 1a-2

	<b>Construction GP Regulation</b> (9VAC25-880-70 Part II (F))	<b>ESC Regulation</b> (9VAC25-840-60)	<b>VSMP Regulation</b> (9VAC25-870-114)
<b>Inspector</b>	Qualified personnel	VESCP authority	VSMP authority
<b>Frequency</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Standard SWPPP Inspections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least once every 5 business days</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>At least once every 10 business days and no later than 48 hours following a measurable storm event (If event occurs when there are more than 48 hours between business days, inspection must be conducted no later than the next business day)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Impaired waterways, TMDL limitation, exceptional waterways SWPPP Inspections</b> (9VAC25-880-70 Part I (B) (4))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least once every 4 business days</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>At least once every 5 business days and no later than 48 hours following a measurable storm event (If event occurs when there are more than 48 hours between business days, inspection must be conducted on the next business day)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Both</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where areas have been temporarily stabilized or LDA suspended due to continuously frozen ground conditions and stormwater discharges are unlikely the inspection frequency may be reduced to once per month</li> </ul> <p>If weather conditions make discharges likely, regular inspection schedule resumes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During or immediately following initial installation of erosion and sediment controls</li> <li>• At least once in every 2 week period</li> <li>• Within 48 hours following any runoff producing storm event</li> <li>• Completion of the project before release of performance bonds</li> </ul> <p>• <b>OR</b>, alternative inspection program approved by Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodically</li> <li>• In response to complaint</li> </ul>
<b>Inspection criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper implementation and effectiveness of approved ESC and P2 plan</li> <li>• Completion of stabilization activities</li> <li>• Identification and documentation of any evidence of the discharge of pollutants prohibited by permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with approved ESC plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with approved ESC and SWM plans</li> <li>• Implementation of P2 plan</li> <li>• Implementation of additional control measures to address TMDL</li> </ul>

**Construction Inspections**  
**State Stormwater Management Annual Standards and Specifications**

Table 1a-3

	<b>Construction GP Regulation</b> (9VAC25-880-70 Part II (F))	<b>ESC Regulation</b> (9VAC25-840-60)	<b>VSMP Regulation</b> (9VAC25-870-114)
<b>Inspector</b>	Qualified personnel	Designated by operator	State agency
<b>Frequency</b>	<p><b>Standard SWPPP Inspections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least once every 5 business days</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>At least once every 10 business days and no later than 48 hours following a measurable storm event (If event occurs when there are more than 48 hours between business days, inspection must be conducted no later than the next business day)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Impaired waterways, TMDL limitation, exceptional waterways SWPPP Inspections</b> (9VAC25-880-70 Part I (B)(4))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least once every 4 business days</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>At least once every 5 business days and no later than 48 hours following a measurable storm event (If event occurs when there are more than 48 hours between business days, inspection must be conducted on the next business day)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During or immediately following initial installation of erosion and sediment controls</li> <li>At least once in every 2 week period</li> <li>Within 48 hours following any runoff producing storm event</li> <li>Completion of the project before release of performance bonds</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b>, alternative inspection program approved by Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periodically</li> <li>In response to complaint</li> </ul>
	<p align="center"><b>Both</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where areas have been temporarily stabilized or LDA suspended due to continuously frozen ground conditions and stormwater discharges are unlikely the inspection frequency may be reduced to once per month</li> </ul> <p>If weather conditions make discharges likely, regular inspection schedule resumes</p>		
<b>Inspection criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper implementation and effectiveness of approved ESC and P2 plan</li> <li>Completion of stabilization activities</li> <li>Identification and documentation of any evidence of the discharge of pollutants prohibited by permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with ESC plan developed in accordance with <b>DEQ approved annual standards and specifications</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with ESC &amp; SWM plan developed in accordance with <b>DEQ approved annual standards and specifications</b></li> <li>Implementation of P2 plan</li> <li>Implementation of additional control measures to address TMDL</li> </ul>

**Post-Construction Inspections**  
 (9VAC25-870-114 and 9VAC25-870-200)  
 Table 1a-4

	VSMP authority	Property owner	State agency
<b>Inspector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VSMP authority; or if allowed by the authority, inspection reports from:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Licensed professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, land surveyor; or</li> <li>○ Person working under the direction and oversight of licensed professionals listed above; or</li> <li>○ Person holding inspector certificate of competence from Board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated in the long-term maintenance agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible state agency</li> </ul>
<b>Frequency</b>	At least once every 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set forth in the long-term maintenance agreement</li> <li>• Varies depending on BMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually</li> <li>• After any storm which causes the capacity of the facility's principle spillway to be exceeded</li> </ul>
<b>Inspection criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether BMPs are being adequately maintained as designed</li> <li>• Inspection criteria listed on the BMP Clearinghouse for BMPs constructed to meet IIB technical criteria and in the 1999 Stormwater Management Handbook for BMPs constructed to meet IIC technical criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection and maintenance criteria listed on the BMP Clearinghouse for BMPs constructed to meet IIB technical criteria and in the 1999 Stormwater Management Handbook for BMPs constructed to meet IIC technical criteria</li> </ul>	Effectiveness of stormwater management measures

## 1b. Training and Certification Requirements



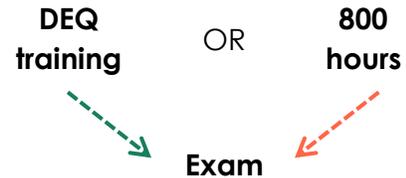
The Act requires staff of a VSMP to obtain and maintain a certificate of competency in the area of stormwater management (§ 62.1-44.15:30). Anyone who is contracted by a VSMP authority to perform any or all of the functions of that authority must also obtain and maintain a certificate of competency (9VAC25-850-30).

DEQ administers the training and certification program in accordance with the Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Certification Regulations (9VAC25-850).

### HOW TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY

There are two ways to become eligible to take a certification examination:

1. Complete DEQ training courses
2. Complete the DEQ 800 Hour Work Experience Form



### DEQ training courses

Program Administrator	Inspector	Plan Reviewer	Combined Administrator*
Program Administrator Course 1 day	Inspector Course 2 days	Plan Reviewer Course 3 days	Program Administrator Course 1 day
			Inspector Course 2 days
			Plan Reviewer Course 3 days

\* The Combined Administrator Courses may be taken in any order.

## Provisional certification

From the day you complete your first required training course, you have ***two years*** to complete all required training courses and obtain a passing score on the certification exam. This provisional certification allows individuals to continue working for an authority while they seek full certification.

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*NOTE:*

Individuals can only be provisionally certified ***once*** per classification.

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If an individual does not obtain a certification within two years, they will not be considered certified until they pass the respective exam, which may include qualifying for the exam through 800 hours of work experience.

Review the DEQ Provisional Certification Guidance at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/TrainingCertification/LearningResources/ExamInformation.aspx>

## 800 hours work experience

Individuals with at least 800 hours of on-the-job work experience as a stormwater management program administrator, inspector, plan reviewer, or combined administrator may complete the 800 Hour Work Experience Form on the DEQ website instead of completing the DEQ training course(s). Individuals still need to pass the exam.

The Work Experience Form is located on the DEQ web site at:

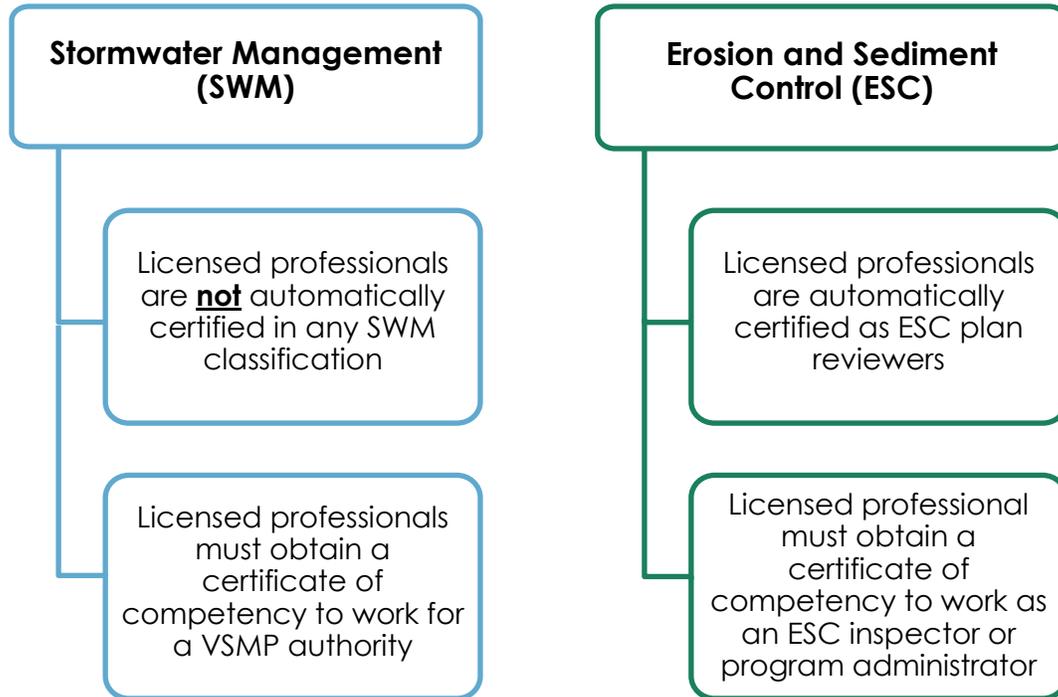
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/ConnectwithDEQ/Training/Work Experience Form.pdf>

## Licensed professionals

(9VAC25-850-50)

Please see DEQ's Professional Engineers FAQ at:

[http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/ConnectwithDEQ/Training/PE\\_FAQ.pdf](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/ConnectwithDEQ/Training/PE_FAQ.pdf)



## EXAMINATION

All exams are administered by Pearson Vue. Visit: <http://www.pearsonvue.com/va/deq/> to register for an exam. The exams are delivered on a computer, are open book, and have time limits.

### Exam Time Limits

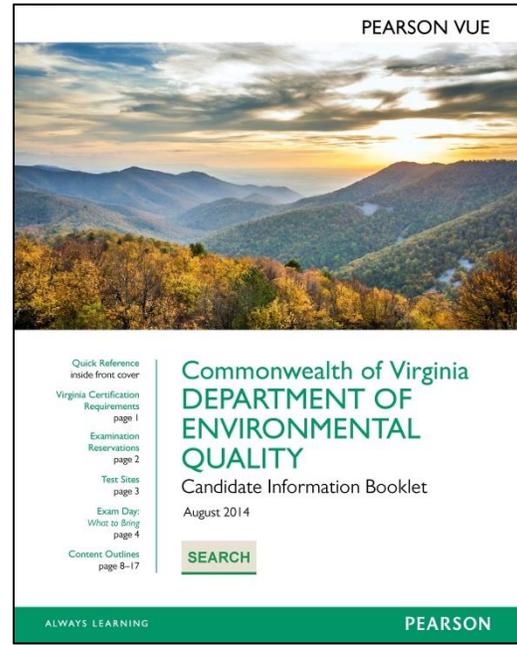
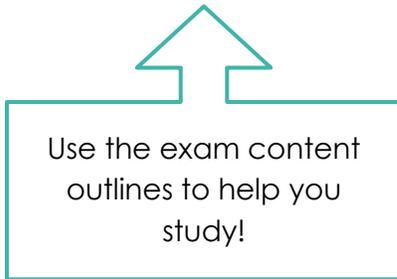


## Candidate Information Booklet

You are strongly encouraged to download and read the *Candidate Information Booklet (CIB)* before taking the exam. The CIB is available at: <http://www.pearsonvue.com/va/deq/>

The CIB includes information about:

- Exam reservations
- What to bring into the exam
- What not to bring into the exam
- Candidate identification
- Course certifications
- Exam content outlines



## Examination results

You will be notified of your examination results at the examination center. You must attain a minimum score of **70%** to pass. If you receive a passing score on your exam, you will receive an email from DEQ prompting you to log into the DEQ Certification Accreditation Tracking System (CATS) to receive your certificate <https://apps.deq.virginia.gov/CATS/>



***If you do not pass the examination, you can reschedule another examination after 24 hours.***

## Certification Accreditation Tracking System (CATS)

<https://apps.deq.virginia.gov/cats/>

The screenshot shows the Virginia.gov website header with the DEQ logo and navigation menu. The main content area is titled "Certification and Accreditation Tracking System (CATS)" and includes a search bar with Home, Search, and Log In buttons. Below the header, there is a welcome message and a list of video links for various certification tasks. At the bottom, there are three main action boxes: "Returning User" with a "Log In" button, "New User" with "Find My Profile" and "Create New Profile" buttons, and "Search" with a "Search" button.

Virginia.gov Agencies | Governor Search Virginia.Gov

DEQ VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Certification and Accreditation Tracking System (CATS) Home Search Log In

Welcome! If you already hold a certificate, please click [Find My Profile](#) below and follow the directions.

**Current RLD certificate? (want to print or renew it)**

- [Video - How to use Find My Profile \(4 mins\)](#)
- [Video - How to launch RLD course \(4 mins\)](#)

**Expired RLD certificate or New RLD certificate?**

- [Video - How to Create New Profile \(5 mins\)](#)

**Erosion or Stormwater certified? (renew with contact hours or combine for dual)**

- [Video - How to use Find My Profile \(4 mins\)](#)
- [Video - How to enter Contact Hours \(5 mins\)](#)
- [Video - How to add a Professional License \(1 min\)](#)
- [Video - How to combine certifications for Dual Certificate \(2 mins\)](#)

**Returning User**

[Log In](#)

Log in to maintain your certifications.

**New User**

[Find My Profile](#)

Already certified? Click here to find your certificate and obtain your login details.

[Create New Profile](#)

Click here if new to CATS and seeking an RLD certificate.

**Search**

[Search](#)

Search for certificate holders.

### DUAL CERTIFICATIONS

Individuals who perform both erosion and sediment control (ESC) and stormwater management (SWM) may obtain a Dual Certificate of Competency by combining the valid certificates and paying the required administrative fee through CATS. The dual certificate will expire three years from *the latest date of the certificates*.

## RECERTIFICATION

Recertification is tracked in CATS. Certificates of competency are valid for ***three years***. In order to maintain your certificate, you must recertify ***before*** your certificate expires.



<b>Recertification Options</b>		
<b>Re-take exam</b>  1. Retake the certification examination with Pearson Vue before certificate expires.	<b>Complete contact hours*</b>  1. Complete required contact hours by completing DEQ courses or other relevant training before certificate expires.  <i>Program admin = 12 hours</i> <i>Inspector = 18 hours</i> <i>Plan reviewer = 21 hours</i> <i>Combined admin = 24 hours</i>  2. Enter contact hour information into CATS and pay recertification fee.	<b>Maintain professional license</b>  1. Keep professional license valid.  2. Enter license number into CATS and pay recertification fee.

\* Review the DEQ Contact Hour guidance at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/TrainingCertification/CATS.aspx>

If your certificate expires, you must re-take the certification exam. It is your responsibility to enter contact hours into CATS. Contact hours can be entered anytime. You can pay recertification fees up to one year prior to your certificate's expiration date.

Please send any questions regarding training and certification to [certification@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:certification@deq.virginia.gov)