



Certification and Re-certification Requirements for VA Licensed Professionals [9VAC25-850-50](#)

Certification

ESC: Virginia professional engineers, architects, landscape architects, land surveyors, and soil scientists (VA professionals) are considered certified as ESC plan reviewers. VA professionals do not have to take the ESC plan reviewer class or pass the ESC plan reviewer exam to review ESC plans for a VESCP authority or entity with standards and specifications.

To work as an ESC inspector or program administrator for a VESCP authority or entity with standards and specifications, VA professionals must complete the respective certification course(s) and pass the associated exam(s).

VA professionals have two options for getting an ESC combined administrator certification:

1. Pass the ESC combined administrator exam, or
2. Pass the ESC program administrator exam and the ESC inspector exam and then contact certification@deq.virginia.gov to have their ESC combined administrator certification manually assigned

SWM: If you are a Virginia professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, or land surveyor working for a VSMP authority or an entity with standards and specifications, you are not exempt from any SWM certification requirements, and you must pass the appropriate SWM exam.

Re-certification

Virginia professional engineers, architects, landscape architects, and land surveyors can re-certify any existing ESC or SWM certification by maintaining their license and paying the re-certification fee through [CATS](#).

Please note: Soil scientists are only able to re-certify using their license for ESC certifications.

Responsible Land Disturber (RLD)

VA licensed professionals can be considered a RLD without further training, certification or fees. The RLD shall be a member of the project team or development team, not an employee of the plan approving authority.