



July 31, 2023

On August 26, 2020, the New Mexico Environment Department issued Guidance Regarding Operator Certification, in response to the cancelation of Operator Certification Training courses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with this guidance, qualified operators were granted Administrative Continuance of their Operator Certifications once they had submitted a renewal form and signed up on the waiting list with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) – Roadrunner Chapter or the New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC).

The New Mexico Environment Department Solid Waste Bureau resumed Operator Certification Training courses as of September 2022. All Administratively Continued Certifications will expire as of June 30, 2024.

Per NMAC 20.9.7.12, regarding operator recertification:

- A. *To maintain certification, certified operators shall apply for recertification at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of their certification.*
- B. *Recertification shall be obtained by making application to the department and successfully completing:*
 - (1) *an operator certification training course offered by the department or its designated agent;*
 - (2) *an alternate training course which has been approved by the department; or*
 - (3) *24 hours of course work which has been approved by the department.*

Registration information for courses facilitated by the New Mexico Environment Department is available on the Solid Waste Bureau (SWB) website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/solid-waste/training>. Operators may take any of the following Operator Certification courses in the Fall to renew their certification:

Landfill Operator	September 12-14, 2023	Los Lunas, NM
Compost Facility	October 17-19, 2023	Raton, NM
Transfer Station	November 14-16, 2023	Ruidoso, NM
Recycling Facility	December 12-14, 2023	Albuquerque, NM

The Spring 2024 course schedule will be posted on the website at the beginning of the year. Approved alternative training courses offering 24 CEU's or more are also available to obtain recertification, including:

New Mexico Recycling and Solid Waste Conference (September 19 – 21, 2023) – Albuquerque, NM

- <https://www.recyclenewmexico.com/conference-registration/>

SWANA Manager of Landfill Operations Training Course (flexible dates) – online or in-person

- [https://swana.org/training-certification/find-a-course/training-course/manager-of-landfill-operations-\(molo\)](https://swana.org/training-certification/find-a-course/training-course/manager-of-landfill-operations-(molo))

SWANA Manager of Transfer Station Management Course (flexible dates) – online or in-person

- <https://swana.org/training-certification/find-a-course/training-course/transfer-station-management>

SWANA Managing Recycling Systems Course (flexible dates) – online or in-person

- <https://swana.org/training-certification/find-a-course/training-course/managing-recycling-systems>

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SWANA Managing Composting Programs Course (flexible dates) – online or in-person

- <https://swana.org/training-certification/find-a-course/training-course/managing-composting-programs>

There is also an 8-hr. online webinar offered by NMRC:

[Online Recycling Training - New Mexico Recycling Coalition \(recyclenewmexico.com\)](https://www.recyclenewmexico.com/online-course-registration/)
<https://www.recyclenewmexico.com/online-course-registration/>

Additionally, operators may complete other alternative training courses with a total of 24 hours of coursework to obtain recertification. Prior approval by the Solid Waste Bureau is required. Contact William Schueler by email at william.schueler@env.nm.gov to get prior approval for any other alternative training opportunities.

If operators are unable to complete the required coursework and to submit a recertification application by May 31, 2024, their certification will expire on June 30, 2024. They will then be required to retake the Solid Waste Bureau certification class and pass a written examination in order to obtain certification.

If you have any questions, please contact William Schueler, Certification Officer, at the Solid Waste Bureau.

Sincerely,



William Schueler
Certification Officer
Permit Section – Solid Waste Bureau
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