

Training on halocarbons

H3 environmental qualification certificate

Rules on halocarbons:

This rule makes it mandatory, starting **June 1st 2008**, to obtain the **H3 environmental qualification certificate** for all workers in the automotive industry who must install, maintain, repair or modify, in the context of their work, an apparatus working with halocarbons, such as vehicle air conditioning systems, and mobile refrigeration units.

Main purpose of the Rule:

Protect the stratospheric ozone.

One of the goals of the Rule:

Eliminate halocarbon emissions, or the substances that impoverish the ozone layer like CFCs, HCFCs and halons.

Duration of the validity of the H3 environmental qualification certificate:

This certificate is valid for the duration of the worker's career and does not replace any kind of competency card.

Main jobs affected by the H3 environmental qualifications certificate:

Body repairmen, mechanics specializing in automobiles, agricultural machinery, trailers, heavy trucks, tool-vehicles, or recreational vehicles, radiator recyclers and repairers.

Conditions for the obtaining the H3 environmental qualification certificate:

In order to obtain the H3 environmental qualification certificate, the candidate must have successfully completed the **Halocarbons training, vehicle category**.

CPA Montréal and the professional education centers are presently developing a partnership in order to offer this training, which is essential for obtaining the H3 environmental qualification certificate.

For information on the school boards providing this training, costs that are charged, how to apply and procedures for obtaining the certificate or for any other information on environmental qualification, you can refer to Emploi-Québec Web site at http://emploiquebec.net/guide_qualif/halocarbuures/reglement/index.asp (french) or phone **1-888-EMPLOI**.

For information on the regulation respecting halocarbons, you can refer to Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs Québec Web site at: <http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/air/halocarbuures/highlights.htm>

You can also read the following *Environmental qualification for halocarbons* brochure that was created by Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs Québec.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

Environmental qualification does not replace professional qualification

It is complementary! The environmental qualification certificate enables workers to use halocarbons in all establishments and enterprises in Québec. It is not a substitute, however, for the professional qualification required to practice a trade listed in the regulation.

Exemptions

Workers who, by January 1, 1994, have successfully completed training given by the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) or by the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society or who hold an equivalent certificate given by another province may obtain their environmental qualification certificate without having to take additional training. This also applies to workers who have obtained a vocational diploma in refrigeration delivered after January 1, 1995.

For the sake of a
healthy environment,
environmental qualification
is everybody's business!

What happens when a worker does not qualify?

Workers who, by June 1, 2007, have not obtained an environmental qualification certificate that complies with the Regulation respecting halocarbons will not be allowed to obtain halocarbons or work on units containing halocarbons. Offenders will be liable to legal proceedings and a fine of between \$2,000 and \$12,500.

Also, enterprises who employ workers who do not hold a valid environmental qualification certificate will not be allowed to fulfill their customer service contract commitments nor install, repair or service units containing halocarbons. These enterprises will also be liable for a fine of between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Reducing the emission of halocarbons into the atmosphere – Work on it!

Halocarbons are an environmental threat because they deplete the stratospheric ozone layer and amplify the greenhouse effect. For this reason, workers who handle them must make changes to their work habits and practices. In the medium and long term, these changes will reduce the emission of halocarbons into the atmosphere for the benefit of a healthier environment!

Environmental qualification For HALOCARBONS

A responsibility shared
between employers and
their workers


For all information, contact the Centre d'information
of the Ministère du Développement durable,
de l'Environnement et des Parcs:

- ▶ Telephone: 418 521-3830
1 800 561-1616 (toll-free)
- ▶ Fax: 418 646-5974
- ▶ E-mail: info@mddep.gouv.qc.ca
- ▶ Internet: www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca

Remember!
You have until June 1, 2007,
to get your qualification
certificate!

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Développement durable,
Environnement
et Parcs

Québec 

Québec 

Under the Regulation respecting halocarbons, all workers using these substances must hold an environmental qualification certificate for halocarbons, which enables them to buy halocarbons and **install, service, modify, dismantle and overhaul** a unit that is designed or converted to operate with a halocarbon. This requirement also applies to employers who must ensure that their employees to whom the regulation applies hold a valid certificate.

Environmental qualification is mandatory as of June 1, 2007.

Environmental qualification for halocarbons is EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

What exactly is a halocarbon?

Halocarbons are synthetic compounds, which means they are not produced in nature. They are mostly found in refrigeration and air conditioning systems and in fire extinguishing systems. Workers commonly refer to them as *halons, refrigerants or gas*.

Why are halocarbons regulated?

Halocarbons pose two environmental problems. First of all, most of them deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. Second, they are greenhouse gases, which means they contribute to climate change. Environmental qualification is one of the provisions of the Regulation respecting halocarbons to reduce their emission into the atmosphere.

What is environmental qualification for halocarbons?

It is a qualification certificate given by Emploi-Québec to individuals who have satisfied the Regulation's training requirements, and covers four categories (see the table of apparatuses according to trade). It serves as an attestation of environmental qualification as required under the Regulation.

How to get it?

To obtain the environmental qualification certificate, individuals must either successfully complete environmental training on halocarbons through school boards that are recognized by Emploi-Québec or receive an exemption (see *Exemptions*). Also, in the case of the H1 and H2 trade categories, workers must also hold a valid professional qualification certificate to obtain their certification.

This training, which lasts approximately seven hours, consists in giving workers information on the environmental impacts of halocarbon emissions and recommending more environmentally responsible work practices. It covers:

- Environmental problems linked to the emission of halocarbons into the atmosphere;
- Québec and federal legislation and regulations governing halocarbons;
- Work practices to apply to reduce halocarbon emissions (servicing, the use of appropriate recovery equipment, halocarbon redamation).

To obtain information on environmental qualification, the list of recognized courses, schools offering the training, cost and details on how to register and obtain a certificate:

- Go to the Emploi-Québec Web site at www.emploi.quebec.net
- Or call 1 888 EMPLOIS

TABLE OF APPARATUSES according to trade

Training covers four categories based on the type of apparatus identified by the Regulation:

| TRADES BY CATEGORY | APPARATUS OR EQUIPMENT |
|--|--|
| H1 – Refrigerating apparatuses | |
| – Stationary engineer (refrigerating apparatus) | – Compressors |
| – Pipe fitter (refrigeration specialization) ⁽¹⁾ | – Building air conditioning units (chillers) |
| | – Central household air conditioning units |
| | – Thermopumps |
| | – Refrigerated warehouses |
| | – Roof units |
| H2 – Extinguishers | |
| – Pipe fitter (sprinkler fitter specialization) ⁽¹⁾ | – Fire extinguishing systems with tanks connected to pipes |
| H3 – Vehicles | |
| – Automobile mechanic | – Vehicle air conditioning units |
| – Heavy road vehicle mechanic | – Mobile refrigeration units (trailers, containers, etc.) |
| – Body repairman | – Truck air conditioning units |
| – Tool-vehicle mechanic | |
| – Heavy equipment mechanic | |
| – Farm machinery mechanic | |
| – Vehicle salvage dealer | |
| – Refrigerated trailer mechanic (transport refrigeration mechanic) | |
| H4 – Household units | |
| – Household appliance repairman | – Refrigerators |
| – Vending machine repairman | – Freezers |
| | – Water chillers |
| | – Window air conditioning units |
| | – Refrigerated vending machines |

⁽¹⁾ Refrigeration specialists and fire protection engineers in the construction sector must inquire with the Commission de la construction du Québec for details on how to obtain their environmental qualification.