

Dear Training Provider,

I am writing to inform you of important new developments in our country's lead poisoning protection program, which may also provide new opportunities for you in developing and marketing training programs. Specifically, within the next two years, almost all home improvement and maintenance companies will be required to have at least one person on their staffs who has taken an EPA or state approved training program on lead-safe work practices. Because of the very large number of people who will be required to enroll in this training, we hope to encourage you and other trainers around the country to apply to become one of EPA's authorized training providers. If you believe that your organization may be interested in this opportunity, please read on for additional information.

On April 22, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the new Renovation, Repair and Painting rule. Under the rule, beginning in April 2010, contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. As required by the rule, renovators and dust sampling technicians must become certified by taking an accredited training course. Beginning on April 22, 2009, training providers can begin applying for accreditation required to teach certification courses for these two disciplines. As required by the new regulations, a training provider may not provide, offer, or claim to provide training or refresher training for EPA certification as a renovator or dust sampling technician without accreditation.

Training providers who wish to provide training to renovators and dust sampling technicians for Federal certification purposes must apply for and receive accreditation from EPA. If you are currently accredited to teach EPA lead abatement course, you are already familiar with our procedures and requirements. For example, renovation training programs must have adequate facilities and equipment for delivering the training, a training manager with experience or education in a construction or environmental field, and a principal instructor with experience or education in a related field and education or experience in teaching adults.

To become accredited to provide training for renovators and dust sampling technicians, a provider must submit an application for accreditation to EPA. The application must include the following items:

- The course materials and syllabus, or a statement that EPA model materials or materials approved by an authorized State or Tribe will be used. EPA model courses will be available in the fall of 2008. The Agency will send you an announcement when they are available.
- A description of the facilities and equipment that will be used.
- A copy of the test blueprint for each course.
- A description of the activities and procedures that will be used during the hands-on skills portion of each course.
- A copy of the quality control plan.
- The correct amount of fees. Accreditation fees will be determined by the spring of 2009. EPA will inform you of the correct fees at that time.

Training programs that submit a complete application and meet the requirements for faculty, facilities, equipment, and course and test content will be accredited for four years. To maintain accreditation, the training program must submit an application and the correct amount of fees every four years.

The Agency estimated that there will be an initial trainee base of approximately 235,000 renovators and 3,000 dust sampling technicians. All of these trainees will be required to take courses given by trainers accredited by their State or Tribe (if their State or Tribe is authorized to administer the Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule) or EPA. The Agency does not yet know which States and Tribes will become authorized. You may want to check with your State or Tribe for more information on whether it will seek authorization to administer the rule; if it does, you may want to apply for State accreditation in lieu of initial EPA accreditation.

In addition, the provisions of the rule create an immediate and future need for the renovator refresher training course. The final rule allows individuals who have successfully completed model renovation courses developed by HUD or EPA, and individuals who have taken an abatement worker or supervisor course accredited by EPA or an authorized State or Tribal program, to become certified renovators by taking EPA-accredited renovator refresher training.

I hope that you will demonstrate your interest in participating in our country's lead poisoning prevention program, and in growing your business by expanding your course offerings, by applying for EPA accreditation to teach these two new courses as well as their refresher counterparts. If you have any questions about the Renovation, Repair and Painting rule or the accreditation process you can visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center (NLIC) at **1(800) 424-LEAD [5323]**.

Sincerely,

Michelle Price, Chief

Lead, Heavy Metals and Inorganics Branch