



SANITARIANS AT A GLANCE

Statute: Chapter 1953, Occupations Code

Rules: Title 16 T.A.C. Chapter 119

Practice Act? No

Title Act? Yes

Inspections? No

Number of Licensees: 1,416 (FY 25)

Webpage: www.tdlr.texas.gov/san



Overview:

Registered Sanitarians in Texas protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public from health and safety dangers. Their inspections are key to preventing and stopping foodborne and communicable disease outbreaks at the source.

A person who engages or offers to engage in work in sanitation may not call themselves a sanitarian or use a title containing the word "sanitarian" unless they hold a certificate of registration from TDLR.

The scope of professional practice of a registered sanitarian includes, but is not limited to:

- evaluating, planning, designing, managing, organizing, enforcing, or implementing programs, facilities, or services that protect public health and the environment.

Program History

Regulation of Sanitarians began at the State Board of Health (later Department of State Health Services) in 1965 with the enactment of Senate Bill 333 (59th Legislature) and the creation of the Sanitarian Advisory Committee.

All activities relating to the Sanitarians program – including licenses and renewals, customer service, and enforcement – were transferred to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) on November 1, 2017.

The scope of practice may be in the areas of:

- manufactured food quality and safety;
- restaurant inspections;
- on-site wastewater treatment and disposal;
- solid and hazardous waste management;
- ambient and indoor air quality;
- drinking and swimming facility water quality;
- insect and animal vector control;
- recreational and institutional facility inspections;
- consumer health; and
- occupational health and safety

(License Types on page 2)

Professional Sanitarian

To be eligible to receive a certificate of registration as a professional sanitarian, a person must:

- hold at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university that includes at least 30 semester hours in basic or applied science;
- have at least two years of full-time experience in the fields of consumer health, environmental health, or sanitation;
- pass the registration examination;
- submit a completed application and required fees; and
- successfully pass a criminal background check.

Sanitarian in Training

To be eligible to receive a certificate of registration as a sanitarian in training, a person must:

- hold at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university that includes at least 30 semester hours in basic or applied science;
- be employed in sanitation;
- pass the registration examination;
- submit a completed application and required fees; and
- successfully pass a criminal background check.

Upgrade

A registered sanitarian in training who has obtained the necessary experience to qualify as a sanitarian may apply to upgrade the sanitarian in training registration to that of a sanitarian.

Certificates issued are valid for two years. A sanitarian in training may only renew the registration once; for a total of four years.

License	Fee
Sanitarian in Training	\$120
Sanitarian in Training Renewal (may only renew once)	\$100
Registered Sanitarian	\$130
Registered Sanitarian Renewal	\$110
Upgrade from Sanitarian in Training to Registered Sanitarian	\$25
Continuing Education Sponsor Approval	\$100 per sponsor

Continuing Education Requirements

A Registered Sanitarian must obtain and show proof of 24 continuing education hours related to the field of consumer health, environmental health, or sanitation, taken within the 24 months preceding renewal for a registration issued for a two-year term. Continuing Education Audits now take place after a licensee renews. The purpose of the adopted rules is to ensure that Continuing Education (CE) audits do not delay the issuance of license renewals in affected programs. These rules allow for timing of the CE audit to occur before, during, or after the license renewal process, thereby preventing delays that could result in a lapse in licensure. This flexibility aims to avoid situations where the license holder’s renewal is delayed due to the time needed to verify CE records, ensuring the license holder remains in good standing.

The **Registered Sanitarians Advisory Board** has nine members serving staggered six-year terms, which includes:

- five registered sanitarians;
- one professional engineer, or one on-site sewage facility (OSSF) professional who is not and has never been registered as a sanitarian in Texas;
- two consumers, one of whom must be a member of an industry or occupation that is regulated either by a city or county environmental health unit or department or equivalent, or by the Department of State Health Services; and
- one person involved in education in the field of public, consumer, or environmental health sciences.