GENERAL OUTCOME

To assess the candidate by means of an oral examination to determine if the candidate is still able to practice independently as an Environmental Health Practitioner in South Africa under the South African legal framework, systems and ethical conduct as defined within the regulations promulgated under the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Services Act, Act 1974 (Act no 56 of 1974). Specific competencies need to be demonstrated in the areas of legislation, health structures, health systems as well as professionalism.
GENERAL
Candidates eligible for evaluation had already supplied the necessary documentation and proof of their basic and advanced qualifications and professional experience to the Professional Board. Because they have been removed from the practicing register for two years or more, it is a precondition that the candidate sit for an oral examination to evaluate if the candidate is still in a position to independently practice in South Africa as an Environmental Health Practitioner.

The six specified learning outcomes hereunder are drafted to ensure that a candidate is capable to practice independently assessing the candidates’ knowledge on environmental health law, -practices, –systems, ethics and related areas:

1. The candidates’ knowledge of practically applying the legislative acts as applicable to the scope of the profession of environmental health
2. Understand the different levels of government in South Africa with specific relation to environmental health service delivery
3. Understand the composition and functioning of the national health system in South Africa
4. The candidates’ knowledge and interpretation of approaches to general ethics (constitutional rights) and specifically of the scope of practice for environmental health practitioners in the context of professionalism, knowledge as well as consequences and procedures of alleged misconduct
5. A good understanding of the management principles (generic administrative processes) applicable when managing environmental health services
6. An acceptable understanding of the Environmental Health Practitioner as an educator and facilitator
The focus of the oral assessment is however not to verify the candidates’ detailed technical knowledge but to focus on the above specified outcomes. The candidates’ qualification(s) with academic transcript / outcomes as well as professional experience were already accepted by the Board in principle – the focus of this assessment is on application of knowledge.

The following serves as general guidance to applicants to understanding the above six learning outcomes for the oral assessment as well as to prepare for the assessment:

1. LEGISLATION

Understand the constitutional rights of individuals and communities especially as far as fundamental rights to health and environment.
Chapter 2 – Bill of rights especially section 24 (environmental rights), section 26 (housing), section 27 (health care, food and social security)

Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)
Chapter 1 – Definitions, purpose and responsibility for health and eligibility for free health services
Chapter 2 – Rights and duties of users and health care providers
Chapter 3 – National Health – structures and functions
Chapter 4 – Provincial health – structures and functions
Chapter 5 – The district health system
Chapter 6 – Health establishments
Chapter 9 – National health research and information
Chapter 10 – Health officers and compliance procedures.
          Special attention to Section 80 (Appointment of health officers)
Schedule 1 – National functions
Schedule 2 – Provincial functions
Schedule 3 – District functions

Custodian is department of Health (DoH)
General overview of applicable sections not repealed

FOODSTUFFS, COSMETICS AND DISINFECTANTS ACT, 1972 (No 73 of 1972 as amended)
Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)
All articles of the Act and the Regulations promulgated in terms of the Act

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT, 1965 (No 45 of 1965)
Custodian is the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
General overview of Part II of the act not repealed by the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (see hereunder)

Custodian the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
General overview with the focus on the new approach towards determining the effects on the receiving environment rather than point source emissions.
Section 7 – Awareness on the National Framework for air quality Management
Section 9 – National Ambient air quality standards
Section 14 – Appointment of air quality officers for 3 spheres of government
Section 15 - Air quality management plans for the 3 spheres of government
Section 18 - Declaration of priority areas
Sections 36-49 – Licensing of listed activities

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 1993 (No 85 of 1993)**
Custodian Department of Labour (DoL)
General overview *
Asbestos regulations GN 773 10 April 1987 amended to GN 1637 4 August 1989
Environmental regulations for workplaces GN R2281 of 16 October 1987 amended to GN R489 of 18 March 1994
Regulations for hazardous chemical substances GN 1179 25 August 1995
Lead regulations GN 586 22 March 1991

Custodian Department of Agriculture
General overview *
Regulations Part II section II

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ACT, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989)**
Custodian Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
General overview *

**NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)**
Custodian Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
General overview *

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)**
Custodian Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
General overview *

Department of Health (DoH)

General overview *
R452 GG 9556 of 25 March 1977 – Group I hazardous substances
R1302 GG 13299 of 14 June 1991 – Group II hazardous substances
R246 GG 14596 of 26 February 1993 – Group III hazardous substances
R1382 GG 15907 of 12 August 1994 – Group IV hazardous substances

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL ACT, 1993 (No 83 of 1993)**
Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

* General overview with specific reference to environmental health duties and responsibilities

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT, 1999 (No 12 of 1999)**
Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

* General overview with specific reference to environmental health duties and responsibilities

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT, 2003 (No of 2003)**
Custodian is the Department of Health (DoH)

* General overview with specific reference to environmental health duties and responsibilities

* General overview is defines as the following:
  - The Government Department responsible for administering the Act
  - The purpose of the Act
A summary of the different chapters (parts & sections) of the Act that relates directly to environmental health service delivery (as seen within the scope of practice)

Hereunder find a list of regulations (applicable to mostly municipal environmental health service delivery) that guides and impacts directly on the scope of an Environmental Health Practitioner. It is not expected from a candidate to understand the detail of each regulation but a basic knowledge is expected:

- National Building Regulations (103 of 1977)
- Regulations Governing General Hygiene Requirements For Food Premises And The Transport of Food (R 918)
- Sections 2(1)(a)-(d); 5 and 6 of Regulation R1128 in Terms of Sections 33, 34, 35, 37 & 38 of the Health Act 24 May 1991. Regulations Relating To Inspections and Investigations
- Regulation 328 of 20 April 2007 Regulation relating to powers and duties of Inspectors and Analysts conducting inspections and analyses on foodstuffs and at food premises
- Regulation R1411 in Terms Of Section 36 of The Health Act; 23 September 1966; Regulations Regarding The Prevention Of Rodent Infestation And Storage of Grain, Forage, etc in Urban And Rural Areas of The Republic of South Africa
- Regulation 2438 in Terms of Sections 32, 33 & 34 of The Health Act; 30 October 1987; Regulations Relating To Communicable
Diseases And Notification of Notifiable Medical Conditions (GN 2438 of 1987)

- Section 48 Of The Health Act relating to the Removal And Burial of a Dead Body
- Regulations Relating To Milk And Dairy Products (R 1555 of 1997) (Updated)
- Regulations Relating To Funeral Undertakers (R 237 of 1985)
- Irradiation of Foodstuffs (R 2644)
- Regulations Relating To Milking Sheds and the Transportation of Milk (R 1256 of 1986) and (R 217)
- Regulations Relating to the Transport of Meat (GN 180 of 1967)
- Regulations Relating to the Labeling of Raw Boerewors, Raw Species Sausage and Raw Mixed Species Sausage (R 2718 of 1990)
- Regulations Relating to Preservatives and Antioxidants in Foodstuffs (R 965 of 1977)
- Regulations Governing Emulsifiers, Stabilisers and Thickeners and the amounts thereof that foodstuff may contain (R 2527 of 1987)
- Regulations governing Microbiological Standards for foodstuff and related matters R 692 of 1997) (Updated)
- Regulations Relating to the Prohibition of the Sale of Comfrey, Foodstuffs containing Camfrey and Jelly Confectionery Containing Konjac (R 1408 of 2003)
- Regulations Governing the Maximum Limits For Veterinary Medicine and Stock Remedy Residues that may be present in Foodstuffs (R 1809 of 1992) (Updated)
- Regulations Relating to the Application of the HACCP System (R 908 of 2003)
- Regulations Governing the Registration of Homes for the Aged (R 3759 of 1969)
• Health care risk management regulations as provided for by the Provincial regulator or as per specific promulgated municipal By-law.

2. LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE
Environmental health responsibilities at each level:
• National – Chapter 3 of the National Health Act
• Provincial – Chapter 4 of the National Health Act & Chapter 6 of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (No 108 of 1996)*
• Metro – Chapter 5 of the National Health Act & Chapter 7 of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (No 108 0f 1996)*
• Local – Chapter 5 of the National Health Act & Chapter 7 of The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, 1996 (No 108 0f 1996)*
  • Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2002 (No 32 of 2000) with specific reference to Integrated Development Plans (IDP) and the role of environmental health in developing and managing IDP plans
• District level – Chapter 5 of the National Health Act

3. THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM
Community level – Schedule 3 of the National Health Act
Local level – Schedule 3 of the National Health Act
Metro – Schedule 3 of the National Health Act
District level – Schedule 3 of the National Health Act
Provincial level – Schedule 2 of the National Health Act
National level – Schedule 1 of the National Health Act
4. PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Definition of professionalism

Regulation R888 dated 26 April 1991 Regulations defining the scope of the profession of the Environmental Health Practitioner

Regulation R2310 dated 3 December 1976 Rules specifying the act or omissions in respect of which disciplinary steps may be taken by the Professional Board for Environmental Health Practitioners

Procedures and responsibilities during misconduct

Ethics as related to service delivery in the context of the Constitution of South Africa Chapter 2 – Bill of Rights:

- Equality
- Human dignity
- Life
- Freedom and security of a person
- Slavery, servitude and forced labour
- Privacy
- Freedom of religion, belief and opinion
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of association
- Political rights
- Freedom of movement and residence
- Freedom of trade, occupation and profession
- Access to information
- Just administrative action
- Access to courts
- Limitation of rights

Continual Professional Development (CPD). Please consult the HPCSA web site, navigate to the Professional Board for EHP and click on CPD. Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):
• Aim and purpose
• Earning Continual Educational Units (CEU)
• CPD log
• Audit call by the HPCSA
• Responsibility of practitioner to earn / accumulate CEUs

5. ADMINISTRATIVE GENERIC PROCESSES
Basic principles of managing environmental health services:
• Policy
• Planning
• Organising - Organogram
• Finances
• Personnel - HR
• Procedures and control functions

6. LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES
Criminal Procedure Act, 1955. (No 56 of 1955)
Serving a notice
Serving a final notice
Summons
Interdict
Spot fines
Court procedures
Role of health education in law enforcement

7. THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER AS AN EDUCATOR AND FACILITATOR
Understand the broad philosophy behind the concepts of health education and facilitation in community development – practical experiences

Participatory approach in environmental health – practical experiences

Stakeholders in environmental health service delivery

• Public participation process
• Consultation process
• Community involvement
• Multi disciplinary team approach

Other approaches to prevention:

• Licensing processes – e.g. atmospheric emission licenses
• Certification processes
• Requirements on building plans
• Environmental authorisations
• Environmental impacts assessments
• Environmental sampling (water, food and air)