

Amendments to Regulations for Environmental Agent Technicians Preannounced

To rigorously manage the environmental agent professional technicians and to strengthen their legally designated responsibilities, the EPA announced the draft of amendments to the Regulations Governing the Employment of Environmental Agent Professional Technicians.

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Environmental Agents Control Act*, the EPA formulated and announced the *Regulations Governing the Establishment of Environmental Agent Professional Technicians* on 15 April 1998. The regulations have been amended three times since then. To improve the management of the environmental agent professional technicians and strengthen the technicians' legally designated responsibilities, the EPA moved the common clauses to the *Regulations Governing the Training and Management of Dedicated Environmental Personnel and Professional Technicians* for unified formulation, and came up with yet another draft amendment to the *Regulations Governing the Employment of Environmental Agent Professional Technicians*.

The gist of the latest draft amendments are:

1. The position of professional technicians can only be fulfilled by people who have acquired the necessary certificates in related fields.
2. Business owners need to hire at least one qualified professional technician.
3. A provision was added to specify that the professional technicians of the manufacturing industry, sales industry and disease vector control industry are obliged to report any accidents caused by the use of environmental agents to the competent authorities within one hour after the incidents took place.
4. If a professional technician fails to execute his duty or his position is left vacant, the business operator should appoint a qualified person with proper certificates as a substitute.
5. The filing time for resignation of the professional technicians is extended to three months.
6. The relevant professional technicians should be employed in a factory, company, or where a business is registered. All hired technicians cannot take on another part-time or full-time job in businesses that are unrelated to environmental protection laws.
7. Under no circumstances can a professional technician refuse, dodge or interfere with the on-the-job trainings. In addition, any person who has not been dedicated as a professional technician within three years should complete the job training for new technicians within six months from the second day of reporting to duty.

Excerpt from Environmental Policy Monthly, 19 (3)