

Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme

Contaminated Land Specialist

The Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme (CEnvP Scheme) was established in 2004 as an initiative of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) aimed at advancing ethical and competent environmental practice. The CEnvP Scheme is open to those who meet criteria of verified experience, ethical conduct and competence. Applicants do not need to be members of EIANZ, however members do receive significant discounts on the application fee and renewal fees.

A key feature of the CEnvP Scheme is its strong and independent governance. It is a scheme that has been set up with a separate and impartial certification board that has always included an appeals process with respect to certification, and a third party complaints and discipline process integrated with that of EIANZ. Applicants are assessed by Panels of CEnvPs in each region, and the confidential panel recommendations are then considered by the CEnvP Board.

There are over 620 CEnvPs (as at August 2015) across Australia and New Zealand and this number has been growing at a rate of about 20% year on year. A directory of CEnvPs is publically accessible on the CEnvP website, along with their area of practice.

The CEnvP Scheme now recognises specialisations, by certifying practitioners to a higher level of experience and proficiency in several specialist categories (Ecology, Impact Assessment, Climate Change and Contaminated Land) with other specialist certifications in the pipeline. Most of these have been driven by (and their specialist criteria defined by) Special Interest Sections within EIANZ.

Creation of the CEnvP CL Specialist category

The initial impetus for the contaminated land specialist category was the New Zealand *National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health* which contained requirements for qualified professionals to conduct contaminated land and groundwater investigations.

The Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ) approached the CEnvP Board as a potential certification body given its tested process and methodology for certification, and a long history of effective management. The CEnvP Scheme was and remains a membership driven organisation and does not have or allow external sponsorship or funding from industry organisations or lobby groups.

Minimum Criteria

Specialist certification signifies that an individual demonstrates a high level of qualifications and expertise in a specialist field, with 10+ years professional experience. Applicants that do not yet meet the specialist criteria are invited to apply for the general category and upgrade at a later time.

To qualify for CEnvP Contaminated Land Specialist status you will need:

CEnvP (CL Specialist) Criteria	CEnvP Criteria (general category)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An environment-related degree and evidence thereof.• Ten years of full time equivalent experience in contaminated land practice during the last fifteen years. At least the most recent three years must be supported by documentary evidence such as reports or other publications.• Nomination by three respected environmental professionals who are willing to act as referees for the candidate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An environment-related degree and evidence thereof.• Nomination by three respected environmental professionals who are willing to act as referees for the candidate.• Five years of full time equivalent experience in the functional areas of environmental practice during the last ten years.• Evidence of and ongoing commitment to training and professional improvement (100

<p>referees for the candidate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the candidate is a respected, competent, ethical and active member of the profession in the form of at least two referee statements (with at least one external to the applicant's current place of employment), a detailed curriculum vitae, reports, publications, citations, conference/seminar presentations, etc. • Evidence of and ongoing commitment to training and professional improvement (at least 100 points of training, professional improvement, service to professional practice over a two year period). Fifty percent must be directly related to contaminated land practice. • A signed and witnessed statement of claim covering qualifications, experience, ethics, commitment and the accuracy of the materials provided to the Certification Board. 	<p>points of training, professional improvement, service to professional practice over a two year period).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the candidate is a respected, competent, ethical and active member of the profession in the form of at least two referee statements (at least one should be external to current employer), a detailed curriculum vitae, reports, publications, citations, conference / seminar presentations, etc. • A signed (and witnessed) statement of claim covering qualifications, experience, ethics, commitment and the accuracy of materials provided to the CEnvP Board.
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Key Proficiencies

The CEnvP Board will be looking for a number of key proficiencies in a contaminated land professional. Some of these are detailed below but can also be found in the CL Specialist Guidance Notes available at www.CEnvP.org/apply.

- Demonstrate ability to lead and integrate multidisciplinary contaminated land studies.
- Know how to scope and prioritise scoping relevant environmental and health investigations.
- Know the relevant laws in the practising jurisdiction.
- Knowledge of up to date best practice in the industry.
- Detailed knowledge of contaminated land investigation and assessment fundamentals and an ability to understand gaps in knowledge (geology, groundwater assessment, environmental sampling/chemistry/toxicology etc).
- Detailed understanding of published guideline values and their limitations and an understanding of site-specific assessment where using published guidelines is not appropriate.
- Thorough knowledge of contaminated land management techniques available, including institutional management tools, remedial options for soil, groundwater and soil gas.
- An appreciation of the emerging issues, trends and techniques.
- Knowledge of commercial and contractual issues associated with land redevelopment and land/property transfer as affected by land contamination.
- Thorough knowledge of health and safety issues associated with conducting contaminated land-related work.
- Demonstrated communication skills required for effective stakeholder engagement.
- Clearly express complex concepts and ideas, orally and in writing
- Demonstrated effective working relationships with stakeholders, including property owners/developers, contractors, consultants and the general public.
- Be able to understand and address conflicting viewpoints
- Act ethically

The Application Process

The CEnvP Scheme has two intakes a year in March and September with the next intake closing cob Friday 4th September 2015. As with all levels of certification, the CEnvP Board makes the final decision on applicants, based on recommendations of assessment panels.

Each assessment panel typically comprises three practitioners with either significant industry standing or is an existing CEnvP or both. The panel reviews each application and interviews each applicant. The interview process will test for the desired proficiencies by use of a Case Study which an applicant will review and then be questioned. The CEnvP Board has adopted this approach rather than the more traditional process of submitting a detailed site assessment reports as part of the application for a number of reasons:

Not all environmental occupations require practitioners to prepare site assessment reports but their knowledge and experience is often equal to and greater than industry consultants who regularly write such reports. It is hoped that this will encourage regulators, academics and industry environmental managers to also seek certification.

Furthermore consulting reports are often the product of many contributing individuals and may not truly be representative of an applicant's work and so it is the CEnvP Boards preference to assess individual by interview, case study and checking of referees to ensure a robust certification assessment process.

Recognition for Australian State Registered Auditors

A number of Australian State governments have existing contaminated land Auditor schemes and have appointed Contaminated Land Auditors. The CEnvP (CL) specialist scheme recognises this accreditation. Contaminated land auditors accepted by an environmental regulatory agency, under relevant legislation, are considered to have been suitably assessed and need only submit an abridged application for CL Specialist certification.

Apart from the recognition of State-accredited auditors, the CEnvP Board currently has no plans to recognise alternate certification schemes.

Fee Structure

The fee structure for certification is summarised in the table below (at Aug 2015). Please checked the CEnvP website for updated fees at the time of application.

	Application Fees		Annual Renewal Fees	
	EIANZ Member (Discounted)	Non EIANZ Members	EIANZ Member (Discounted)	Non EIANZ Members
CEnvP for general practice	A\$ 260	A\$ 520	A\$ 200	A\$ 400
CEnvP plus Contaminated Land Specialist	A\$ 388	A\$ 775	A\$ 293	A\$ 585
Current CEnvPs upgrading to Contaminated Land Specialist	A\$ 128	A\$ 255		
Accredited Auditors*	A\$ 180	A\$ 325	A\$ 293	A\$ 500

* See CEnvP CL Specialist Guidance Notes for definition. CEnvP Annual renewal fees are invoiced after successful certification. EIANZ Membership is \$60 application fee, then \$295 annually.

The Environment institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ)

The EIANZ is a not-for-profit, member based, professional association for environmental practitioners from across Australia and New Zealand.

The Institute supports environmental practitioners and promotes independent and interdisciplinary discussion on environmental issues. The Institute also advocates environmental knowledge and awareness, advancing ethical and competent environmental practice. Established in 1987 the EIANZ now has over 1800 members (at Aug 2015).

Visit www.eianz.org for details on how to become a member and upcoming CPD events and training

Visit www.cenvp.org for details on the CEnvP certification program and how to apply.