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NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

Changes to NC Certified Animal Waste Operator Fees and Renewal – July 18, 2023

On June 27, 2023, the NC General Assembly passed Session Law 2023-63 (Senate Bill 582).

The law went into effect July 1, 2023.

Section 13.1 amended the Certified Animal Waste Operator exam fees and renewal fees, and added an option to pay a late fee instead of retaking the exam.

- Certified Animal Waste Operator exam fee: $85.00.
- Certified Animal Waste Operator annual renewal fee: $25.00
- Annual renewal fees are due by December 31 each year.
- There is no longer a 30 day grace period. A certificate is invalid if no payment is received by December 31 and a $50 late fee is assessed on January 1.
- The late fee and renewal fee (total $75.00) can be paid up to 12 months from the due date.
    - After 12 months of invalid status, an operator with an invalid certification is required to pass the exam again to obtain active status.
    - Prior to this change, an operator who did not pay the renewal fee was required to pass the operator exam in order to reinstate their license.

These changes are an effort to bring Animal Waste Operator and Wastewater Operator rules in alignment.

No change was made to Continuing Education requirements: an operator needs 6 credits every 3 years to be able to renew.

For questions:

NC Certified Animal Waste Operator Program website: deq.nc.gov/opcert

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Session Law 2023-63 Section 13.1 (p.24)