

Certification for Canadian Meteorologists

For over a decade, ECO Canada has offered professional designations specifically for environmental professionals. Overseen by the Canadian Environmental Certification Approvals Board (CECAB), Environmental Professional certification is the only designation of its kind in Canada to provide professionals with formal recognition of their unique environmental competencies.

In June 2011, ECO Canada plans to launch a new **Meteorologist Designation**. In an industry that is growing and changing, **certification is crucial to separating the self-proclaimed experts from the real ones**. It demonstrates an individual's professionalism, commitment to the field, and desire to remain on top of current practices. It is also a measure of a professional's competencies against **verified standards**, which set them apart from others in the industry.

The benefits of a certified workforce to the meteorological industry are considerable and include, among other things...

Benefits for Meteorological Professionals...

- Establishes your professional **credibility**;
- Increases your employment opportunities;
- Greater job **mobility** and recognition by employers;
- Enhances the **marketability** of your skills across sectors and internationally;
- Creates a visible path for **career progression**;
- Provides access to a **network of other professionals**; and
- Offers valuable **discounts** and prequalification on **liability insurance**.

Benefits for Meteorological Employers...

- Enhances the **credibility** of your company;
- **Attracts clients** to your organization;
- Promotes a **qualified workforce** with skills that are verified against national standards;
- Leads to **increased business opportunities**;
- **Reduces risk** of errors and omissions; and
- Provides access to professional **liability insurance**;

Certification for Canadian Meteorologists

National Occupational Standards for Meteorologists

Developed and maintained by ECO Canada, in partnership with [CMOS](#) and [Environment Canada](#), the NOS were created to provide a definitive guide to the skills and knowledge required for meteorological professionals to do their jobs within each specific field of specialization. ECO Canada updates all of its standards in consultation with industry on a five-year minimum basis in order to reflect the rapidly evolving requirements of meteorological practice.

How Applicants will be Compared against the Standards

In addition to satisfying initial application requirements, applicants measure their level of proficiency by completing a self-assessment of their skills and knowledge in their chosen field. Each assessment consists of a series of competency statements that describe work activities specifically related to that field of specialization.

For example, if you are applying for certification as a meteorologist, you will see statements related to preparing weather forecasts, instrumentation, scientific studies, etc. As an applicant, you are not expected to be proficient in every activity; instead the survey takes a comprehensive look at all the activities associated with your area of expertise.

For each activity you have worked in the past five years, you are required to rank:

- **Level of proficiency** (learning, guidance, independent, or expert)
- **Experience** (length of practice)

After applicants have completed their self-assessment, their level of proficiency is verified and compared against the national standard. Applicants must meet or exceed the standard to qualify.

Certification for Canadian Meteorologists

About CECAB

The Canadian Environmental Certification Approvals Board (CECAB) is responsible for the overseeing the administration, evaluation and approval of ECO Canada's certification of Environmental Professionals (EP) in Canada. The Approvals Board oversees final ratification of all candidates.

EP certification establishes credibility for professionals on the basis of demonstrated competence. Recipients of a designation through ECO Canada have demonstrated that their skills and knowledge meet or exceed the National Occupational Standards (NOS) in meteorology.

A professional designation for meteorologists will help to:

- Create an identifiable career stream that will attract students to meteorological programs in Canadian universities;
- Provide Canadians with assurances that public safety is protected by trustworthy meteorological products and services as the economic and social impacts of harsh meteorological events increase in magnitude, frequency and severity;
- Define the domain of meteorological occupations given the dramatic growth of the private sector and the expanding range of weather services into alternative energy, air quality and environmental services; and
- Standardize the skill level of those with foreign credentials.

Certification for Canadian Meteorologists

Membership Discounts

All certified Environmental Professionals receive access to the following exclusive services:

- **Professional events:** Build connections and enhance the meteorological community through invitations and discounts to industry-related events for certified members of the environmental sector.
- **Professional Insurance Discounts:** Individuals holding a full-fledged ECO Canada awarded designation in good standing can access a 66% discount on Errors & Omissions and Commercial General Liability insurance for environmental work! Insurance provided by *Encon* and brokered by *Purves Redmond*.
- **Product and Services Discounts:** Get rewarded for your environmental certification by taking advantage of the member discounts program – savings on everything needed to get the job done, including hotels, car rentals, work attire, insurance, and more!

Become a Certified Member and Receive...

- Affinity group rates on Errors and Omissions and General Liability insurance – *savings of more than \$500/year*
- Discounts on products and services needed to get the job done in the environment sector, such as hotels, car rentals and field work clothing – *savings up to \$500/year*
- Discounted attendance to ECO Canada workshops and networking events – *savings of up to \$100/year*
- Exclusive access to online and local networking opportunities for certified Environmental Professionals – *valued at up to \$100/year*

This means that with certification you can easily *save over \$1,200/year*, and have opportunities to network with other professionals in your area! And remember, certification dues are income tax deductible.