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OPERATING PROCEDURE

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Authors

Name: Kevin Simmons
Title: Environmental Scientist

Signature:  Date: 4/16/2017

Approvals

Name: John Deatrick
Title: Chief, Field Services Branch

Signature:  Date: 4/11/17

Name: Hunter Johnson
Title: Field Quality Manager, Science and Ecosystem Support Division

Signature:  Date: 4/11/17

Revision History

The top row of this table shows the most recent changes to this controlled document. For previous revision history information, archived versions of this document are maintained by the SESD Document Control Coordinator on the SESD local area network (LAN).

History	Effective Date
<p>SESDPROC-007-R5, <i>Training</i>, replaces SESDPROC-007-R4</p> <p>General: Corrected any typographical, grammatical, and/or editorial errors. Also, any references to retired forms have been replaced with the appropriate reference. In addition, any references to former Division organizational structure was updated to reflect current structure.</p> <p>Title Page: Changed Field Quality Manager from Bobby Lewis to Hunter Johnson. Updated cover page to represent SESD reorganization.</p> <p>Table 1: Modified titles of training for Health and Safety Training/ 24-Hour, HAZWOPER/8-Hour Refresher, Laboratory Safety Training, and CPR. Added AED to CPR Training Title, Blood Borne Pathogen Training, and Defensive Driver Training.</p>	April 12, 2017
SESDPROC-007-R4, <i>Training</i> , replaces SESDPROC-007-R3	January 29, 2013
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1 General Information

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the overall training program for EPA personnel subject to the SESD Field Branch Quality System. The training program will provide a plan for retention and enhancement of employee knowledge, skills and abilities in performing work activities.

1.2 Scope

This procedure addresses the training requirements for SESD's field and laboratory personnel as required by ISO 17025, EPA Order 3500.1 and EPA Order 1440.2. Mention of trade names or commercial products in this operating procedure does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

1.3 Documentation/Verification

This procedure was prepared by persons deemed technically competent by SESD management, based on their knowledge, skills and abilities. The official copy of this procedure resides on the SESD Local Area Network (LAN). The Document Control Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the most recent version of the procedure is placed on the LAN and for maintaining records of review conducted prior to its issuance.

1.4 Definitions

1.4.1 Competency Evaluation

Competency Evaluation is an initial evaluation of a field investigator to determine if they have demonstrated the necessary skills and knowledge to independently perform measurement or sampling activities. Upon demonstration of competency for a measurement or sampling procedure, a field investigator is deemed proficient in that procedure for a period of four years.

1.4.2 Mandatory Training

Training required by law or agency directives; training needed to maintain specific certifications.

1.4.3 On-The-Job Training

On-the-job describes training that is given in a normal working situation, typically conducted by one employee for another, using the actual tools, equipment, documents or materials that they will use when fully trained.

1.4.4 Proficiency Testing

A means of evaluating a field investigator's ability to properly use a field instrument or perform a sampling procedure. For field measurements, the field investigator must demonstrate the ability to obtain the correct values by the analysis of materials of known composition. For sampling activities, proficiency is evaluated by direct observation by a qualified operator to ensure that procedures are conducted as defined in a procedure by a field investigator.

1.4.5 Developmental Training

Training that leads to enhancing knowledge, skills and abilities.

1.4.6 Required Training

Training identified by management as needed in order for employees to be competent to perform current or future assignments.

1.5 References

EPA Order 1440.2 Health and Safety Requirements for employees engaged in field activities.

EPA Order 3500.1 Training and Development for Compliance Inspectors/Field Investigators.

EPA SF-182, Request, Authorization, Agreement and Certification of Training Form, Most Recent Version

Field Branches New Employee Training Checklist, SESDFORM-007, Most Recent Version

Individual Training Plan, SESDFORM-023, Most Recent Version

SESD On-the-Job Training (OJT) Form, SESDFORM-002, Most Recent Version

SESD Operating Procedure for Competency and Proficiency Testing, SESDPROC-006, Most Recent Version

SESD Operating Procedure for Management Review, SESDPROC-013, Most Recent Version

SESD Safety, Health and Environmental Management Program (SHEMP) Procedures and Policy Manual, Most Recent Version

SHEM Guideline 51, Safety, Health and Environmental Management Training

Training Certification Form, SESDFORM-013, Most Recent Version

Training Evaluation Form, SESDFORM-024, Most Recent Version

2 **SESD Field Branch Training Program**

2.1 **General**

This procedure describes the SESD field branch training program. The objectives of the program are to provide field investigators and laboratory analysts with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform work activities and to meet agreed upon customer requirements.

The training program employs a mechanism for identifying training needs, for providing training opportunities and for evaluating and documenting the training received. EPA management is responsible for fostering an atmosphere wherein employees are encouraged to improve their knowledge, to grow professionally and to further develop their potential. EPA management is also responsible for providing training opportunities and for evaluating and documenting the training received.

EPA management and staff will be provided training needed for full participation in the operation of the SESD Field Branch Quality System.

Training is categorized as mandatory, required or developmental. The training may be in the form of on the job training, formal SESD training classes or training classes from outside sources such as contractors, instrument manufacturers, or universities, and may include technical conferences. Management will determine the priority of specific training within available funding and assure that funded training is conducted and documented.

Training may be documented with certificates of completion issued by the training provider, the SESD On-the-Job Training (OJT) Form (SESDFORM-002), the Training Certification Form (SESDFORM-013), or the EPA SF-182, Request, Authorization, Agreement and Certification of Training Form. Documentation and records of training specific to performance of the SESD field quality system procedures will be maintained by the FQM. Additional training records will be maintained by the appropriate personnel, as designated by SESD management.

2.2 **Employee Qualifications**

EPA operates its' hiring procedures under the federal government's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations. OPM issues qualification and classification standards for all general schedule (GS) positions (<http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.asp>). The OPM qualification and classification standards describe the educational and experience requirements which a potential employee must meet to satisfy the OPM requirements for a specific job series and grade. Before an employee is hired, SESD management develops a Position Description. OPM then verifies that the applicant meets the education and experience requirements for the appropriate GS series and grade for the position. After the verification process is complete, managers are authorized to hire an applicant who meets the OPM requirements from a certificate of eligible candidates. It should be noted, **EPA's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) maintains all records pertinent to an employee's educational and experience qualifications for hiring.**

2.3 New Employee Training

All new employees are required to take training identified by management prior to performing work activities. This training will include a briefing on the SESD Quality System, Ethics, Computer Security, Facility Security and the SESD Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Program (SHEMP). For employees issued credentials, management will ensure the training requirements of EPA Order 3500.1 are satisfied. Management can select other topics as needed. The training is provided by the organizational unit that has functional responsibility for the topic. The New Employee Training Checklist (SESDFORM-007) will be used to document the training. The checklist is retained by the employee's Section Chief until all training has been completed. The checklist is then forwarded to the FQM. Health and safety training requirements are discussed in the SHEMP Procedures and Policy Manual. Management will implement individual training requirements for each new employee by ensuring training is provided, documented and records are maintained indicating completion.

2.4 Personnel Training Responsibilities

Management has the primary responsibility for determining the appropriate employee training needs. Managers must also know and plan for individual employee mandatory training, e.g., safety, health, ethics, proficiency testing or other training required periodically. Finally, management must determine the best way to obtain the needed training within the funding that is available.

In the event project specific training is required, the Section Chief will work in conjunction with the project leader to identify the type of training required and to ensure all project personnel are properly trained.

2.5 Training Plan Development

The Section Chiefs within the SESD field branch work with each employee to identify training needs associated with the three types of training: mandatory, required and developmental. After identifying training needs, a training plan is devised to address the needs. At least once each year, managers will meet with employees to discuss training needs and, when applicable jointly complete the Individual Training Plan (SESDFORM-023) or an Individual Development Plan (IDP). This plan reflects and addresses all program-specific and/or extracurricular training. Identification of training needs is a joint effort between management and each individual. The Section Chiefs evaluate training requests to ensure the training is relevant to the present and future tasks of the Division. The Section Chiefs will maintain training/development plan records.

Particular attention is given to the selection and training for:

1. New employees to help them achieve competency to perform SESD field sampling and field measurement procedures
2. Preparation of personnel to complete current assignments
3. Preparation of personnel for new assignments

4. Significant procedural change
5. Process/technology change
6. Addressing nonconformance to the quality system
7. Personnel who are issued EPA inspection credentials under EPA order 3500.1

The training listed in Table 1 may be mandatory for certain field and laboratory personnel depending on their job duties. This is not a comprehensive list but rather the core of the training required for most field and laboratory personnel.

Table 1: Core Training Requirements for Field and Laboratory Personnel

Title of Training	Personnel	When Required	Person(s) Responsible
Health and Safety Training / 24-Hour for Field Activities per Guideline 51	Field	Before participating in field-related activities	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) / 40-Hour	Field - For all permanent employees who will be working at hazardous waste sites	Before participating in field-related activities	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
HAZWOPER / 8-Hour Refresher per Guideline 51	Field	Yearly	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
Laboratory Safety Training per Guideline 51	Laboratory - For all permanent employees who will be working in the laboratories	Before participating in laboratory activities	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
Laboratory Safety Training Refresher	Laboratory	Yearly	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
Fire Extinguisher Training	Field and Laboratory	Yearly	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
CPR/AED	Field and Laboratory	Every Two Years	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
First Aid	Field and Laboratory	Every Two Years	EIB and EAB Safety Officers
Blood Borne Pathogen Training	Field and Laboratory	Yearly	Safety Officers
Basic Inspector Training	EPA Credentialed Employees	Prior to leading an EPA Inspection*	Management
Program Specific Training (Water, RCRA, Air)**	EPA Credentialed Employees	Prior to leading an EPA Inspection*	Management
Program Specific OJT	EPA Credentialed Employees	Prior to leading an EPA Inspection*	Management
Testimony Training	Field, as appropriate	Every three to four years	Management
Defensive Driver Training (free course offered through GSA)	All EPA employees who drive or may drive GSA-leased vehicles	Every three years	Safety Officers

* EPA Order 3500.1 specifies that the supervisor will determine when a trainee has met the 3 basic training requirements prior to leading an EPA inspection.

** Program specific training can include SESD sponsored Inspector Training such as the NPDES Inspection Workshop, Hazardous Waste Site Sampling, etc.

2.6 Training Effectiveness Evaluation

During the annual Management Review of the SESD Quality System, the FQM and management will evaluate the effectiveness of the field branches training program. The FQM maintains records of proficiency testing results, internal audits and external assessments as a means of measuring the effectiveness of the training that was provided to field and laboratory personnel.

Field investigators and laboratory analysts are also required to complete the Training Evaluation Form (SESDFORM-024) or the EPA SF-182, Request, Authorization, Agreement and Certification of Training Form to assess the effectiveness of any training received. Additional training needs may be identified as a result of the evaluation. The Section Chiefs will maintain all training evaluation records.

2.7 Training Records

The FQM will maintain all documentation of quality system training for EPA and ESAT contract field and laboratory personnel subject to the requirements of ISO 17025. The records will include:

1. Field Branches New Employee Training Checklist (for new employees after the Year 2006)
2. Sampling and measurement authorizations from management
3. Confirmation of training taken (Certificates or Form)
4. Summary of proficiency tests and competency evaluations, as appropriate

The Management Analyst located in SESD's Management & Technical Services Branch maintains all Position Description records.

Records will be sufficiently detailed to show that personnel were qualified for hiring, that they have been trained, that their ability to conduct work has been formally evaluated and that they have been authorized to conduct work, either with assistance or independently.

The Section Chiefs will maintain staff training records as required by EPA Order 3500.1. Health and Safety records are maintained in accordance with the SHEMP Procedures and Policy Manual.