



# Radon Credentialing



# History

- Late 1980s – EPA launches
  - Radon Measurement Proficiency (RMP)
  - Radon Contractor Proficiency (RCP) Program
- Mid 1990s –
  - RMP & RCP become Radon Proficiency Program (RPP)
  - EPA began investigating privatization of RPP
  - American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) offers National Radon Safety Board (NRSB) proposal



# History

- Late 1990s
  - CRCPD Radon Stakeholder Meetings
  - NEHA piloted a draft radon proficiency program (NEHA-NRPP)
- Early 2000s
  - CRCPD E-02-2, Criteria for Certification of Radon Service Providers, the Accreditation of Radon Chambers and Laboratories, and the Approval of Measurement Devices
  - EPA "equivalency letter" for NEHA-NRPP & NRSB



# History

- Early 2010s
  - NEHA-NRPP becomes NRRP and solely managed by AARST
  - Non-regulatory state radon program approached by a trade organization requesting that their non EPA recognized radon credential be included on state web site listing of radon service providers
- Now
  - EPA adds requirement to list only validated credentialing program on SIRG participant web site.
  - EPA is working to find a route to ensure quality radon services to the public.



Since Mid 1990s EPA continued to receive comments that they need to stay engaged in credentialing.



# EPA Notice

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0430; FRL-9966-07-OAR]

Notice of Intent To Establish Voluntary  
Criteria for Radon Credentialing Organizations



all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (866) 208-FERC or on the FERC Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)). Using the "eLibrary" link, select "General Search" from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and Docket Number excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP17-26 and CP15-499), and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to eLibrary, the helpline can be reached at (866) 208-3676, TTY (202) 502-8659, or at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov). The eLibrary link on the FERC Web site also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rule makings.

Dated: August 17, 2017.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-17847 Filed 8-22-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0430; FRL-9966-07-OAR]

#### Notice of Intent To Establish Voluntary Criteria for Radon Credentialing Organizations

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; opening of a 60-day public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** Since 1988, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has administered a statutorily-mandated program under the Indoor Radon Abatement Act to reduce exposure to indoor radon by promoting awareness, testing, installation of radon mitigation systems in existing homes, and use of radon-resistant new construction techniques. EPA works with state programs, industry and the public to reduce human exposure to radon and thereby reduce deaths due to lung cancer. Access to quality service providers responsible for measuring indoor radon levels and conducting mitigation when necessary is essential to this mission. Historically, EPA

operated a program, the Radon Proficiency Program (RPP), to identify qualified radon service providers, a service to assist consumers and states receiving indoor radon grants. Upon its discontinuation, two organizations qualified to be designated as responsible parties for credentialing radon service providers in the absence of a state-run process established under a state's regulatory requirements. Since that time, there has not been an ongoing and open evaluation process for organizations wanting to credential radon service providers. As the Federal agency responsible for implementing the national radon program, and in response to the needs of our state and private partners, EPA intends to establish voluntary criteria outlining a standard of competence for organizations that credential radon service providers. This notice provides interested parties with an opportunity to provide feedback on the Agency's proposed approach.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 23, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0430, to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or withdrawn. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.* on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <http://www2.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Katrin Kral, Indoor Environments Division, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air 6609T, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460; 202-343-9454; [kral.katrin@epa.gov](mailto:kral.katrin@epa.gov).

#### I. General Information

##### A. Does this action apply to me?

This notice is directed to stakeholders working to reduce exposure to indoor radon. It may, however, be of particular interest to those involved with promoting and/or conducting testing and installation of radon mitigation systems, including, but not limited to:

- Organizations credentialing radon service providers and other building construction and/or maintenance related providers.
- Radon service providers.
- Organizations who provide third-party accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17024:2012.
- Organizations representing state health and environmental programs, green building initiatives, and the radon services industry.
- State radon programs.
- Federal agencies who own, influence or control housing.

##### B. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for EPA?

1. *Tips for Preparing Your Comments.* When submitting comments, remember to:

- Identify the notice by docket number, subject heading, **Federal Register** date and page number.
- Follow directions—EPA may ask you to respond to specific questions or organize comments by including a specific reference.
- Explain why you agree or disagree; suggest alternatives and substitute language for your requested changes.
- Describe any assumptions and provide any technical information and/or data that you used.
- If you estimate potential costs or burdens, explain how you arrived at your estimate in sufficient detail to allow it to be reproduced.
- Illustrate your concerns with specific examples and suggest alternatives.
- Explain your views as clearly as possible, avoiding the use of profanity or personal threats.
- Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.

##### C. How can I learn more about this?

To learn more, please visit [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon). Depending on interest and questions received, EPA may host a question and answer session via webinar during the comment period. Please visit the Web site regularly for updates.



# Federal Register Notice

- Published 8/23/2017
- Public Comment period for 60 days (10/23/17)
- CRCPD requested 60 day extension for comments
- Public comments are now excepted until 11/23

Federal register notices are how federal agencies operate openly and transparently.



# Scope of Notice

- Only applies to professionals.
- Can include requirements for professionals to use devices meeting specific standards.
- Labs and devices not directly addressed.



“EPA intends to establish voluntary criteria outlining a standard of competence for organizations that credential radon service providers.”



# Terms Defined

To understand what are important concepts in any federal announcement, pay particular attention to the defined terms.

- Certification Scheme
- CRCPD
- Credentialing Organization, Certification Body
- Guidance on Federal Conformity Assessment
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)



# Terms Defined

To understand what are important concepts in any federal announcement, pay particular attention to the defined terms.

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- ISO/IEC 17024:2012
- The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA)
- Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCS)



# EPA WANTS COMMENTS

Without state, interested party, stakeholder comments....



## EPA CONTACT:

Katrin Kral, Indoor Environments Division,  
Office of Radiation and Indoor Air 6609T,  
Environmental Protection Agency,  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.,  
Washington, DC 20460;  
202-343-9454; [kral.katrin@epa.gov](mailto:kral.katrin@epa.gov).



# Specific Comments Sought

1. Overall Approach
2. Application of Voluntary Criteria to State-Run Programs
3. Requirements for Accreditation Organizations
4. Development of ISO/IEC 17024:2012 Program-Related Components



# Overall Approach

- States receiving SIRG funding would be required to list only providers certified by 17024 compliant certifying organizations
- Certifying organizations would have to ensure certificate holders meet and maintain certification scheme requirements
- Time-frame for phase-in
- Bring existing certificate holders into compliance



# Application to State Programs

- Feasibility
- Appropriateness
- Potential impacts / consequences



# Requirements for Accreditation Organizations

- Accreditation organizations are those that verify certifying bodies meet ISO/IEC 17024:2012, Conformity assessment — General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
- Those accrediting organizations must themselves demonstrate ISO/IEC 17011:2004 compliance
- One such accrediting organization serving the US is ANSI (<https://www.ansi.org/>)



# Development of Accreditation Components

EPA is considering supporting the development of the radon professional certification scheme to be used by the certification bodies in order to reduce barriers to 17024:2012 compliance.

- (a) EPA develops basic framework for credentialing organizations to follow and leaves specifics of scheme development and maintenance to certification bodies.
- (b) EPA supports development of initial certification scheme and leaves maintenance to certification bodies.
- (c) EPA supports development and maintenance of certification scheme.



# Scheme

Definition of the term scheme applicable in this context:

- a large-scale systematic plan or arrangement for attaining some particular object or putting a particular idea into effect. (Google)(Oxford)
- a systematic or organized configuration (Merriam-Webster)



“Certification Scheme: Component of ISO/IEC 17024:2012 that outlines competence and other requirements related to specific occupational or skilled categories of persons including...”



# Documents Referenced in Notice



# ISO/IEC 17024:2012

Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons

An international standard for accrediting credentialing bodies.

Elements of program cover these areas:

- Structure of Organization
- Documentation
- Impartiality
- Confidentiality
- Transparency
- Conflict of Interest
- Legal Matters
- Iterative improvement



# CRCPD E-02-2

Criteria for Certification of Radon Service Providers, the Accreditation of Radon Chambers and Laboratories, and the Approval of Measurement Devices

A currently existing radon certification scheme that includes:

- Certification board structure & administration
- Approval, denial, revocation, appeals
- Certification levels and requirements
- Device approval
- Accreditation of radon laboratories and radon chambers



# Further Reading

- <https://www.epa.gov/radon/learn-more-about-epas-plans-establish-voluntary-criteria-radon-credentialing-organizations>
- [https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA\\_FRDOC\\_0001-21169](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA_FRDOC_0001-21169)
- [https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/crcpd.site-ym.com/resource/collection/38E6A758-FF50-4C78-A8DD-03672B1FD0C6/Radon\\_Criteria\\_Document.pdf](https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/crcpd.site-ym.com/resource/collection/38E6A758-FF50-4C78-A8DD-03672B1FD0C6/Radon_Criteria_Document.pdf)
- <https://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ISO%2fIEC+17024%3a2012>
- <https://www.ansi.org/Accreditation/credentialing/personnel-certification/Default>



# CRCPD SR-R

Clark Eldredge, FL, Chair

phone: 850-245-4888, fax 850-617-6442

[clark.eldredge@flhealth.gov](mailto:clark.eldredge@flhealth.gov)

Joshua Kerber, MN

[joshua.kerber@state.mn.us](mailto:joshua.kerber@state.mn.us)

Anita Kopera, NJ

[anita.kopera@dep.nj.gov](mailto:anita.kopera@dep.nj.gov)