



## OOWA's Professional Development Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Issued: April 2016

### Q1. What's in it for me?

In an increasingly competitive landscape, the RPP offers you another tool for your toolbox. Those completing the RPP will be promoted and recognized by OOWA as those who are the "gold standard" of the industry and increase the professionalism of the industry. A directory of those who have completed the program will be available to the public on the OOWA.org web site. In a time when property owners are doing more to educate themselves about onsite systems, the RPP is a great way to differentiate yourself from your competition and give your clients confidence they are working with the right professional.

### Q2. How much time is involved that is going to keep me away from running my business?

The program is run by the onsite industry for the onsite industry. Courses are typically available during the "off season" to help optimize participation for your convenience. You may also receive credit for your existing industry experience and knowledge. Please visit: [www.oowa.org](http://www.oowa.org) for the RPP criteria and information on where to fill in any "gaps" you may have to get the designation.

### Q3. How much does it cost?

For the 'Registered Professional' stream, there is a registration fee of \$150, which provides you with RPP designation and services for 3 years from the time of registration. For the 'In-development' stream, the registration fee of \$40 provides program services and 'in-development' services for 1 year. Courses and materials are not included in program registration, so please check with the training providers listed on the OOWA website for specific course information.

### Q4. What are the ongoing requirements?

Participation in the program is intended to be ongoing and keep you up to date on any developments within the industry. Your ongoing required commitment would be to achieve 20 hours of education and 4 hours of health and safety training over the course of every 3 years. These hours can be achieved in a variety of ways including attending OOWA events that you may already be attending (e.g. the annual conference, regional meetings, manufacturer workshops, or industry open house events). If you'd like to know if a specific event qualifies, contact the Program Coordinator, or refer to OOWA's calendar of events.

### Q5. Are vendors able to get certified?

Yes! Vendors are often relied upon for their specific product knowledge, but that's often just a small component as part of a larger project. The RPP will help you understand the "big picture" of what your clients work with and will help make you a more valuable resource to your customers.

### Q6. If I am exempt from registering as a designer with MMAH because I am a Professional Engineer or Professional Geoscientist, am I also exempt as a designer under the RPP?

Although the MMAH exempts Professional Engineers and Professional Geoscientists from registering with a BCIN, OOWA does require all technical professionals to have a valid BCIN to register in our professional program.

### Q7. How do I demonstrate the aptitudes through previous university and college courses?

Applicants must provide a course description or syllabus material that demonstrates the course covers a particular aptitude. Post-secondary and certificate transcripts are also accepted in the event course descriptions or syllabus material are not available.

### Q8. Is there a timeframe in which these courses must have been completed?

Yes, core aptitudes are required to have been taken within the last 10 years. Courses or aptitudes taken at a post-secondary or academic institution are valid for 20 years. Finally, Health and Safety courses may be a maximum 5 years old, subject to regulatory requirements or certificate requirements.

### Q9. How do I document informal on-the-job training and project experience to be used to demonstrate aptitudes?

Professional and client references are reviewed as part of the RPP application to verify the applicant's qualifications. However, professional experience does not exempt the applicant from the need to have taken the required training courses to meet the aptitudes.

### Q10. Is manufacturer authorization required to achieve the Registered Professional designation as a Wastewater Service Technician?

Yes, you are required to submit recognition of training from at least four of Ontario's approved treatment system manufacturers.

### Q11. Can my supervisor's registration be used for manufacturer authorization?

No, each registrant is responsible for their individual skill sets and knowledge.

### Q12. Do my Wastewater Treatment or Wastewater Collection O.I.T. licenses count towards aptitudes?

Training or courses undertaken as part of your Wastewater Treatment or Wastewater Collection O.I.T. program can count towards aptitudes if you submit the required Course Declaration Form and supporting course descriptions, if the course directly applies to one of your designation's aptitudes.

### Q13. Does my Wastewater Treatment or Wastewater Collection Class 1 to 4 MOECC Operator License for treatment or collection count toward the aptitudes?

Yes, your in-class training hours can count towards aptitudes if you submit the required Course Declaration Form and supporting course descriptions, if the course directly applies to one of your designation's aptitudes.

### Q14. I was a registered professional under OOWA's historic programming - am I still an RPP?

OOWA members who have historically been RPP members are able to transition their historic designation to one of the newly issued categories, until December 31, 2016. These members will however be required to re-register and submit registration fees the following calendar year (2017) to maintain their new designations.