



EASTERN TECHNICAL ASSOCIATES

10 Questions to Ask a Smoke School Provider

A “no”
answer to
any of these
questions
could mean
the validity
of your
certification
is at risk!

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1. Can our lawyer attend and audit your program to assure validity and quality?
2. Will your organization take the witness stand and defend your certificates in a court of law?
3. Does your smoke school program cover the full range of opacity — from 0% to 100% — when testing?
4. Does your smoke school lecture fully comply with EPA's Section 3.12 document and EPA 600/4-83-011 standards?
5. Are the field test sets of 50 readings really in random order?
6. Does your organization keep smoke school records for at least 4.5 years for the following items:
 - Optical Filter Certification?
 - EPA Reference Method 9 Table 9.1 Compliance Data?
 - Opacity Meter Calibration Records?
 - Strip Chart Records of Runs?
 - Test Run Forms?
 - Grading Masters for Test Runs?
7. At your smoke school programs, are the students monitored to ensure tests are taken individually to guarantee the validity of their certifications? If so, how?
8. Do your organization's field instructors avoid giving hints regarding opacity values or ranges during testing?
9. Has your program ever been formally audited by a state or federal regulatory agency? If so, were the results satisfactory or unsatisfactory? Do you provide copies of past audits?
10. Is there a compliance paper trail from Filter Calibration to Certificate Issuance available and can it be provided to us?