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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND THE NEW AAI RULE**

### **Who can perform AAI-compliant Phase Is?**

To ensure the quality of all appropriate inquiry investigations, the AAI rule defines specific qualifications for environmental professionals. The definition of an environmental professional provided in the AAI rule differs from the qualifications included in the ASTM E1527-00 standard. Unlike the ASTM E1527-00 standard, the AAI rule imposes specific educational, certification or licensing, and relevant experience requirements for the environmental professional tasked with overseeing the assessment.

### **Who qualifies as an Environmental Professional?**

The AAI rule defines an environmental professional as someone who possesses sufficient specific education, training, and experience necessary to exercise professional judgment to develop opinions and conclusions regarding conditions indicative of releases or threatened releases on, at, in, or to a property, sufficient to meet the objectives and performance factors of the rule, and has: (1) a state or tribal issued certification or license and three years of relevant full-time work experience; or (2) a Baccalaureate degree or higher in science or engineering and five years of relevant full-time work experience; or (3) ten years of relevant full-time work experience.

## Summary of Required Qualifications for an Environmental Professional

	New ASTM 1527-05 AAI Standard	Old ASTM 1527-00 Standard
<b>Definition</b>	A person who possesses sufficient specific education, training, and experience necessary to exercise professional judgment to develop opinions and conclusions regarding conditions indicative of releases or threatened releases (per Section 312.1(c)) on, at, in or to a property, sufficient to meet the objectives and performance factors in Section 312.20(e) and (f) (Section 3.10).	A person possessing sufficient training and experience necessary to conduct a site reconnaissance, interviews, and other activities in accordance with the ASTM standard, and from the information generated by such activities, having the ability to develop opinions and conclusions regarding recognized environmental conditions in connection with the property in question. An individual's status as an environmental professional may be limited to the type of assessment to be performed or to specific segments of the assessment for which the professional is responsible (Section 3.3.12).
<b>Certification/License, Education, and Relevant Experience Requirements</b>	<p>Hold a current Professional Engineer's or Professional Geologist's license and have the equivalent of <i>three</i> years of full-time relevant experience; or hold a current registration from a state, tribe, U.S. territory, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and have the equivalent of <i>three</i> years of full-time relevant experience; or be licensed or certified by the federal government, a state, tribe, U.S. territory, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to perform environmental inquiries as defined by the AAI rule (Section 312.21) and have the equivalent of <i>three</i> years of full-time relevant experience.</p> <p>A person who does not hold a relevant license or certificate may still qualify as an environmental professional if he/she has a Baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education in a discipline of engineering or science and have the equivalent of <i>five</i> years of full-time relevant experience.</p> <p>A person who does not have a relevant license or certificate and does not hold a university degree in a discipline of engineering or science can qualify as an environmental professional if he/she has the equivalent of <i>ten</i> years of full-time relevant experience.</p>	No requirements.
<b>Additional Requirements</b>	Remain current in his/her field through participation in continuing education or other relevant activities.	None.