

**COVID-19 Statement Regarding Arkansas Department of Health's  
Abatement Rule  
Lead-Based Paint Program  
May 22, 2020**

At the directive of the Governor and in alignment with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)'s Lead-based Paint Activities (Abatement) Program, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is providing the following statement for the COVID-19 public health emergency that is affecting the certification and/or licensure process for the Lead Abatement Program.

Already certified individuals operating under the state administered program may be unable to take in-person third-party exams or complete the in-person hands on activities required as part of the certification or recertification process because most exam and training providers are closed due to the public health emergency.

Although performing regulated activities without complete or proper certification is a violation of EPA's lead-based paint regulations, U.S. EPA's enforcement memorandum of March 26, 2020 ([Temporary COVID-19 Enforcement Policy](#)), provides that EPA may exercise its enforcement discretion with regard to such violations if your interim certification or certification expired on or after March 13, 2020 and it was not possible to complete your certification or recertification process solely due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

If you continue to perform regulated activities, we recommend that you follow the terms of the Temporary COVID-19 Enforcement Policy. You should review the Temporary COVID-19 Enforcement Policy in its entirety and pay particular attention to the following:

- **Make every effort to comply with your environmental compliance obligations;**
- **Document the cause and circumstances of the noncompliance; and**
- **Complete the third-party exam or refresher training course as expeditiously as possible when it is practicable to take in-person third-party exams for certification or complete the in-person hands on activities for recertification.**

**Additionally, ADH asks that you contact our program office via phone, email or fax to inform us if you have (or soon will have) an expired certificate or license due to COVID-19, but plan to complete your necessary training as soon as you are able.**

Allowing individuals whose interim certification or certification expired on or after March 13, 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency to continue to participate in the EPA Abatement and RRP Programs during this public health emergency will contribute to the public health goal of protecting children and others from lead paint hazards.