



The Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control Newsletter

Special Interest Articles

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It's Election Time!!!!

By J. Duarte, CISEC #0160

The Board of Directors is the group that takes responsibility for the day to day management of CISEC, Inc. It's a lot of work!!!! I know because I volunteered to sit on this Board two years ago and while it's been an amazing experience, it's a lot of work. But, the work is gratifying and knowing that we are growing a new organization into a truly successful and sustainable organization is worth the work.

Since I took my position on the Board two years ago, we've seen CISEC, Inc. expand into Canada with a great inspector certification program geared towards Canadian regulations. We've seen CISEC certification programs expand into many states in the U.S. such as California with their certifications requirements in the Construction General Permit. Many other states are also looking for ways to standardize credentials across their jurisdiction and we continue to pursue partnerships with states and other public agencies to provide an outstanding stormwater inspector certification program they can rely on.

The CISEC Board of Directors consists of seven members. Board members meet monthly via conference calls and in person once a year at the StormCon conference. We are now ready to begin a new election process during 2014 and are looking for folks who are interested and willing to sit on the board and participate in our growth and future success.

For our 2014 election, we are looking to replace one Board member who has resigned and will be holding elections to fill this spot. In 2015, there will be two positions open and in 2016, there will be three positions open.

Start thinking about how you might want to help the success of the CISEC program by running for office. Board members hold office for a term of three years. The following schedule has tentatively been set for the 2014 election.

Call for Candidates	April 2014
Candidate Statements Due	May 2014
Voting Open	June 1-15, 2014
Voting Closed	June 15, 2014
New Member Announcement	July 2014
Annual Board Meeting	August 2014

If you are interested in finding out more about being a board member, take a look at our website for more information. Find out who your current Board is and give us a call if you have any questions about Board participation.

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One More Responsibility of a Qualified Inspector

By C. Palmer, CISEC #0439

Recently I was given the opportunity to work with Lorman Educational Services on a presentation about current Issues in stormwater management, and as we all know there are so many. As the environmental guy for a four state construction company, the biggest issue is having qualified personnel complete SWPPP documents. I have been informed that 80-90 percent of violations are paperwork related. In an industry where we report on ourselves, it just seems wrong to have those percentages working against us. This tells us for the most part, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are properly installed and maintained. However, telling the world how good we are falls woefully short in either properly executed paperwork or correlation between design and practical application.

Starting with the SWPPP narrative, there is much that I see that often fails basic requirements. I often feel like Goldilocks! The narrative portion is too big, covering every possible BMP designed by human beings in 50 states and all variants. It covers every possible situation that could occur from Alaska to Florida; is not job specific, and often is based on the permit that expired two years ago.

Then we have those sites that are too small. These rarely cover the basics, omit many of the permit requirements and have one BMP, usually silt fence or hay bales, as a catch all for everything. Satisfaction sets in when we have those that seem just right. They are site specific, you can see that the designer was qualified and put some practical application thoughts into it. The information is accurate and the forms are current. Obviously there was communication between the designer and the end user, and the result is success.

Sediment and Erosion Control Drawings are another problem. On one project I recently reviewed, the plans called for silt fence on pavement, check structures on flat ground, and less than half of the disturbed area had any BMP's at all. For the drop inlets, the designer had placed a note: "Protect with EPA Approved Product" inlet protection. I have not seen very many BMP's stamped with the EPA's seal of approval! The plan was identified as an Erosion Control Plan. Sadly, not one erosion control was shown. It might be an indication of a problem when the Plan Title Block is wrong. This may be an extreme example, but similar silliness occurs more often than you might think. Contractors are the end user responsible for implementation 90% of the time. One would think that as a building is designed for the end user, a Stormwater plan would be as well.

What does all of this have to do with being a CISEC?

In our home state, the permit requires the permittees to ensure inspectors are qualified, but nothing is mentioned about designers. Obviously the permittee is ultimately responsible for any violations. The qualified inspector is the first line of defense for a permittee! Although we are not designers, we should know good S&E Control Plans when we see them, and the same with the narrative. We should do our best to protect those we work for by being able to honestly evaluate both. The 80-90% paperwork errors are within our area of expertise.





Inspection Practices in California

By K. Kristoffersen, CISEC #0507



In California we have some very specific credential requirements to be an inspector. These credential requirements are prescribed by the California Construction General Permit and include a 16 hour Qualified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Practitioner (QSP) class and online exam, combined with the requirements of Sections VII of the Permit, e.g. the CISEC Certification.

As an example all the inspectors at CAL-Storm Compliance are QSP certified and will visit several project sites a day. Their weekly schedules are somewhat fixed, as they must visit each project site at least once a week.

The dress code for Inspectors consists of standard safety gear required on all active construction sites, including; long pants, long-sleeve shirts, safety shoes, safety vests, hardhats, safety glasses and even gloves on some projects. The inspection protocol calls for the Inspectors to drive around a project's outer perimeter, when possible to ensure the site's external integrity. The inspector will then enter the project site, always driving slowly, to check in with site management.

Key items checked at the site office include locating a copy of the Notice of Intent (NOI)/WDID number, ensuring that it is posted and that a copy resides in the SWPPP. Other items checked include the SWPPPs currency such as project amendments and the organized filing of inspection reports and daily weather printouts.



The project site map will be reviewed to ensure that it reflects the current BMP locations, as well as initials and dates reflecting recent changes. It is critical that the inspector understand site conditions including current construction activity through discussion with the superintendent or project manager.

The inspector will then walk or drive the site, alone or at times with a site representative, looking for signs of erosion, sediment deposition and waste management issues. Remember, the two biggest red flags for any project site are tracking or track-out and housekeeping. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be checked to ensure that they meet minimum requirements based on that Risk Level, a California requirement...the higher the Risk Level, the greater the amount of minimum required BMPs. Indications of erosion, sediment or compromised BMPs will be photographed to aid in communication with site management. Urgent issues will be verbally communicated with site management prior to leaving the site. The last step in the weekly inspection process is the generation of a formal written report with site photos.



All other inspections are weather driven; pre- and post-rain and can be combined with the weekly inspections if timed correctly. A well-trained inspector working for an owner, general contractor or agency has one primary responsibility: to identify potential problems that might cause a pollutant discharge into a storm drain or receiving water system. Communication, training and follow-up are the keys to effective compliance. If we keep that in mind and realize that everything else is designed to support that goal, we can effectively impact water quality, and will not have as many contaminated water issues.

You can reach Ken at
kkristoffersen@calstormcompliance.com



CISEC, Inc. Policy Changes

By C. Evans, Staff

Beginning with this current renewal year, July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, there are changes in renewals, late fees, reinstatements and time frames when registrant must retest and pass the exam to become re-certified (if required). Below is the breakdown of these new policies:

- **Renewal Fee Increase**-this fee has been increased to \$65 per year starting with the renewal due by June 30, 2014. This is due to increased costs to operate CISEC, Inc. as well as normal cost of living increases. Inflation was definitely not the main reason for our first fee increase of \$15 in over four years. However, our operating costs have definitely increased since 2010, which we have addressed by implementing various methods to avoid increasing annual fees (e.g., answering the phones only twice a week). After reviewing operating costs, the Board of Directors had to make the decision that an increase in annual fees was necessary to ensure our nationwide CISEC registration remains the most professional and up-to-date inspector program possible. Increases in other administrative fees were also necessary to distribute these costs throughout the entire CISEC program.
- **Late Fee**-the Board of Directors has implemented a new policy based on past years late renewals that creates a late fee applicable when a renewal is sent in after the grace period which is from July 1st through July 31st of the current year. As of August 1st, a late fee of \$25 will be charged to all registrants' renewals received from that date forward.

Examples:

- ✓ Registrant sending in renewal on July 4, 2014-still pays only renewal fee of \$65
- ✓ Registrant sending in renewal on August 1, 2014 will pay \$65 renewal fee **plus** late fee of \$25 for a total of \$90.

- **Reinstatement of Registrants' Certification**-if a renewal is received September 1, 2014 or later in the renewal period, a reinstatement fee equal to that year's renewal fee will be charged before the registrant is allowed to use the CISEC designation or certification number or relisted on the CISEC, Inc. website.

Examples:

- Registrant sending in renewal by July 31, 2014-will pay only \$65 renewal fee
- Registrant sending in renewal by August 1 through August 31, 2014-will pay renewal fee of \$65 **plus** late fee of \$25 for a total of \$90.
- Registrant sending in renewal September 1 forward-will pay renewal fee of \$65 **plus** late fee of \$25 **plus** reinstatement fee of \$65 for a total of \$155.

- **Time Frame Limitation to Become Current and Reinstated Before Required to Re-exam**-due to the swiftness of changes in the industry, the Board of Directors has implemented the following requirements when a registrant is two years overdue to renew or reinstate their certification:

Registrant must reapply and have application accepted, then must take the current exam and pass with a minimum 75% in order to have their certification reinstated with their original number. The fee for this for registrant's only will be \$150 for the exam only; registrants wishing to download, from the website, the manual for study may do so at no charge. If they wish to have their exam proctored, they must follow the procedure set forth on the website for proctoring.

You can reach C. Evans at
cdh_renewals@cisecinc.org

CISEC, Inc.

United States

P.O. Box 188
 Parker, CO 80134

PHONE:
 720-235-2783

FAX:
 303-841-6383

E-MAIL:
contactus@cisecinc.org

Canada

70 Canuck Ave.
 Toronto, ON M3K 2C5

PHONE:
 416-661-6600 ext. 5241

E-MAIL:
can-cisec@trca.on.ca

Board of Directors

Jerald S. Fifield, Ph.D.,
 President
 CISEC #0006

Paul Taylor, PE, Member
 CISEC #0008

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 CISEC #0160

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