

# Requirements to be a certified Toxics Use Reduction Planner

Toxics Use Reduction (TUR) Planners are MassDEP-certified professionals who have passed exams and/or documented relevant education and experience. There are two main categories of TUR planners:

- **General Practice Planners** may certify TUR plans for any facility.
- **Limited Practice Planners** may certify plans only for facilities owned by their employer and at which they have had at least one year of experience in TUR activities related to operations at the facility.

In addition, all TUR Planners have the option of applying for MassDEP approval to certify Resource Conservation (RC) Plans or TURA Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

TUR planners need to document continuing education credits (CEUs) and renew their MassDEP certifications every two years. Planners receive most of their CEUs from **TUR courses** (e.g., the bi-annual TUR conferences hosted by TURI) but may also receive up to 8 CEUs for **TUR activities** such as presenting, teaching, mentoring or participating in advisory committees related to TUR, and up to 4 CEUs for courses focused on other environmental or worker health and safety **laws or regulations** within a 2 year period.

TURA EMS planners follow the recertification process for TUR planners. RC planners, on the other hand, must augment their TUR planner continuing education with at least 3 CEUs each for trainings related to water conservation, energy conservation or minimizing materials that contribute to solid waste, and need to renew their RC planner certifications every four years. These RC-specific credits are considered part of the TUR course CEUs required for TUR planner recertification.

*Instructions to apply for certification and additional information about eligibility can be found at:*

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-toxics-use-reduction-program#-tur-planners-&-certification-> .

*To speak directly with someone at MassDEP contact: [tura.program@mass.gov](mailto:tura.program@mass.gov)*

310 CMR 50	Requirements		General Practice TUR Planner	Limited Practice TUR Planner
310 CMR 52 (1)	<b>Minimum Employment Experience</b>		<b>7 years</b> full-time employment in specified fields* is required for <b>all</b> TUR Planners, with the following education substitutions possible:	
310 CMR 52 (3)	<b>Educational Substitution for Employment Experience</b> (Educational program must be concentrated in specified fields)*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational/tech certificate = 1 year</li> <li>• Relevant associate degree = 2 years</li> <li>• Bachelor's Degree, concentration <i>directly</i> related to TUR = 4 years</li> <li>• Bachelor's Degree, concentration <i>indirectly</i> related to TUR = 3 years</li> <li>• Master's or Doctorate, concentration <i>directly</i> related to TUR = 5 years</li> <li>• Master's or Doctorate, concentration <i>indirectly</i> related to TUR = 4 years</li> </ul>	
310 CMR 54	<b>Initial Certification as a TUR Planner</b>	<b>Exam-track Procedure</b>	Successful completion of the TUR Planner certification course and passing the exam are both required. Fee for attendance: <b>\$2,500</b>	Successful completion of the TUR Planner certification course and passing the exam are both required. Fee for attendance: <b>\$785</b>
310 CMR 55		<b>Through Experience in TUR Activities**</b>	Not applicable	2 full years' experience in TUR activities <b>OR</b> 1 ½ years' experience in TUR activities <i>plus</i> successful completion of the TUR Planner Certification Course
310 CMR 53 (3)	<b>Certification / Recertification</b> (Recertification required every two years following initial certification)		Fee: <b>\$500</b>	Fee: <b>\$100</b>
310 CMR 58	<b>Continuing Education</b>	First recertification	30 CEUs	24 CEUs
		Subsequent recertifications	24 CEUs	20 CEUs

\* **Employment or educational fields:** *Directly* related fields include Engineering or Process Control, Manufacturing, Production, or Quality Control, Environmental Compliance or Worker Health and Safety, Biology, Chemistry or Physics. *Indirectly* related fields include Planning, Industrial Design, or Research and Development; Accounting, Business Administration, or Product Marketing; Managerial or Legal.

\*\* **TUR Activities** include **Process Assessment** (includes determining why a toxic chemical or production process is used, points where the chemical enters and leaves the production process, the amounts of toxic chemicals used, produced as byproducts or emissions, and whether a process flow diagram corresponds to actual facility operations), **Options Identification** (includes generating a list of options, identifying when additional sources of information are needed, and determining if an option is or is not toxics use reduction), **Technical Evaluation** (includes analyzing the technical feasibility of a potential change in process operations or chemical use, evaluating the potential impact on worker health and safety, impact on compliance with other environmental laws, change in amounts used or produced as byproducts or emissions and the overall impact on facility operations), **Economic Evaluation** (includes analyzing the economic feasibility of a potential change in process operations or chemical use including analysis of the costs and savings associated with the change), or **Other Related Activities** (other activities that demonstrate the skills listed above).