

VMB Announces Mandatory Continuing Education for RVTs

The California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) has announced a new regulation requiring mandatory continuing education (CE) for registered veterinary technicians. The regulation will go into effect July 1, 2011. Once enacted, the regulation will require 20 hours of approved CE in the two years preceding re-licensure. Having regular CE requirements will help RVTs maintain their skills and competence consistent with current standards beyond their initial studies, as well as improve patient care as the practice of veterinary medicine evolves.

Starting with license renewals in July 2013, 20 hours of approved CE will be required in the preceding two years before an RVT license will be reissued. The first group of RVTs to be affected by this new regulation will be those with June 30, 2011 license expiration dates. (CE credits will not be required to renew an RVT license in 2011 or 2012.)

When an RVT can start accruing CE hours depends on their license renewal date. The hours must be earned in the two years prior to the license expiration date. For example, if a license expires on June 30, 2013, an RVT can count hours earned between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013. CE credits earned before July 1, 2011 will not be applicable toward this requirement, as all 20 of the required CE units must be earned during the two-year license period immediately preceding the expiration date.

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.” — Alvin Toffler

CE hours shall be earned by attending courses relevant to veterinary medicine and sponsored or co-sponsored by any of the statutorily or regulatory approved providers, or a provider approved by the VMB or VMB designee. Self-study courses can account for a maximum of four hours of CE during the two-year period.

There is no CE requirement for the first license renewal. For second and subsequent renewals, RVTs will be subject to the CE requirements. Waivers in other specified circumstances may be permitted.

The CVMA recommends that RVTs maintain a folder with original CE certificates of attendance for courses they attend. The VMB may require proof of attendance at renewal. RVTs should keep their CE records for four years beyond their license renewal date.

More information, including a list of statutorily approved providers, is available at CVMA.net and on the VMB's website. See “Compliance corner” for CE requirements for veterinarians.