



## Draft Rules — Credible Data Program (OAC Chapter 3745-4)

### What does OAC Chapter 3745-4 cover?

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3745-4 contains Ohio's standards for the credible data program. This program was designed to encourage and oversee the collection, analysis and use of data collected by volunteer individuals and organizations.

### Why are these rules being amended?

The rules are being amended as part of the five-year rule review requirements in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 106. The agency has reviewed the rules and has identified needed changes.

### What changes are being considered?

A number of changes are under consideration and are listed in the side panel. The Agency believes these changes will improve the quality of data and the administrative aspects of the program. Our goal is to make it easier for outside groups to participate in data collection activities. Rule OAC 3745-4-03 is being rescinded and filed as new due to revisions to more than 50 percent of the rule.

### Who is regulated by these rules?

Participation in the credible data program is voluntary. Those individuals choosing to participate in the program are governed by requirements and procedures specified within these rules.

### What is the rulemaking schedule?

At this time, the Agency is soliciting input on these draft rule revisions. Ohio EPA is required by section 121.39(D) of the Revised Code to contact potentially affected parties prior to adopting rule changes.

At the close of the draft rule comment period, the Agency will review the comments and make necessary changes to the rules. The Agency will then file proposed rules with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, the Legislative Service Commission and Secretary of State.

At that point, another comment period, including one or more public hearings, will be scheduled. After the close of the comment period, the Agency will review the comments, make any necessary changes and then adopt the final rules.

Ohio EPA expects to file the proposed rules in early 2017. The final rules could be adopted in spring 2017.

### What additional information is the Agency seeking?

The Agency is seeking comments from interested stakeholders (public, local officials, industry sectors, other state agencies, consultants and environmental organizations) who may be impacted by these rule revisions. General comments and specific factual information are welcome.

In addition to the draft rule amendments, Ohio EPA is also seeking comments and feedback on the draft Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Business Regulation Impact Analysis form, which is being released with these draft rules during interested party review.

#### Rule content under review.

All aspects of the rules are subject to review. Based upon using these rules over the past five years and after considering stakeholder input the Agency has drafted rule revisions including:

- Update of data collection methods where appropriate.
- Language authorizing creation of new training and testing requirements for Qualified Data Collectors (QDCs).
- Procedures and qualifications needed to train and test QDC candidates.
- Improved QDC application and renewal procedures.
- Content requirements for project study plans and laboratory quality assurance plans.
- Modified data submittal requirements.
- Review of rule appendices and rescission or amendment where necessary.

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## How can I comment on the draft rules?

Please submit your comments in one of the following ways:

- By email: [dsw\\_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov)
- By fax: (614) 644-2745
- By postal mail:

**Rule Coordinator**

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water  
P.O. Box 1049  
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**Comments on the draft rules must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2017.**

## How can I get more information?

- Copies of this fact sheet, CSI form and the draft rules are on the Division of Surface Water website at [www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/dswrules.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/dswrules.aspx).
- For additional background information on the Credible Data Program, please visit the Credible Data web page at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/credibledata/index.aspx>.
- The existing rules in OAC Chapter 3745-4 are available at: [http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/rules/3745\\_4.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/rules/3745_4.aspx).

For more information about these draft rules, please contact:

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