June 7, 1999
Revised: July 24, 2013 (based on changes to confined space standards)

Chris O’Kief, Director
Industrial Training Center
Treasure Valley Community College
650 College Blvd
Ontario, OR. 97914

Dear Mr. O’Kief:

This is in response to the questions in your letter of May 20, 1999. You ask for clarification of qualifications for trainers under the 1910.120 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response standard (HAZWOPER) and the OAR 437-002-0146 Confined Spaces standard. Specifically you ask about qualifications for the instructors conducting “train the trainer” training.

The HAZWOPER standard paragraph (q)(7) requires trainers who teach any of the HAZWOPER training subjects to have satisfactorily completed a training course for the subjects they are expected to teach. Courses that would meet this requirement are classes similar to the course offered by the U.S. National Fire Academy. Instructors could also train if they have the training or academic credentials and instructional experience necessary to demonstrate competent instructional skills and a good command of the subject matter of the courses they are to teach. Appendix E of the HAZWOPER standard is a non-mandatory appendix that outlines the requirements for the instructor and the training program.

OAR 437-002-0146 Confined Spaces standard paragraph (11) requires the employer to certify that employees are trained. The qualifications of the instructor are not specifically addressed in the standard. The instructor should have adequate training skills and knowledge of the subject matter to ensure that all aspects of confined space entry are covered.

For more information contact Oregon OSHA’s technical section at 503-378-3272 or visit at www.orosha.org.

Sincerely,

Peggy A Munsell, Manager
Standards & Appeals Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division