

Occupational Authorizations

EXHIBIT C2

for the meeting of the
ALC-OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers

PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIER-IN-TRAINING

Authorization Type: Certification # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Department of Agriculture

Scope of Practice: Plotting the boundaries, describing, and evaluating the kinds of soil as to their behavior and response to management under the various uses.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code § 17-47-305 allows for certification as a soil classifier-in-training for an applicant who: (1) Is a graduate of a soils curriculum approved by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and has passed an examination in the fundamentals of soil classification; or (2) Is an applicant who has completed a soil curriculum not approved by the commission, who has a specific record of one (1) year of soil classification experience of a grade and character satisfactory to the commission, and who passes an examination in the fundamentals of soil classification. The certification is valid for four (4) years.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

Fees & Penalties

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Application	\$20.00	Once
Fee	Initial Certification	\$50.00	Once
Fee	Reexamination	\$20.00	Once

Administrative Rules Documents

Document Type	Document
Rules	17_CAR_Pt_10_Registration_for_Professional_Soil_Classifiers.pdf

Supporting Evidence Documents

No Supporting Evidence Documents Provided

PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIER

Authorization Type: Registration # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Department of Agriculture

Scope of Practice: Plotting the boundaries, describing, and evaluating the kinds of soil as to their behavior and response to management under the various uses.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code § 17-47-301 provides that "No person shall practice or offer to practice professional soil classifying as defined by this chapter unless the person is registered to practice under or exempt from the provisions of this chapter."

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from

Yes

Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers (Continued)**PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIER (Continued)**

accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Fees & Penalties			
Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Application	\$20.00	Once
Fee	Initial Registration	\$60.00	Once
Fee	Reexamination	\$20.00	Once
Fee	Renewal	\$20.00	Annually
Fee	Late Renewal	\$30.00	Annually
Fee	Temporary Initial Permit	\$75.00	Once
Fee	Temporary Permit Renewal	\$60.00	Once

Administrative Rules Documents	
Document Type	Document
Rules	17_CAR_Pt_10_Registration_for_Professional_Soil_Classifiers.pdf

Supporting Evidence Documents

No Supporting Evidence Documents Provided

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee
Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Responses to the following questions are due via email to Subcommittee staff no later than the 15th of the month immediately preceding the month the occupational authorization is scheduled for review by the Subcommittee.

1. Would consumers be at risk of substantial harm if Arkansas did not have this occupational authorization? What instances of specific and substantial harm have been documented in the past year?

Response: Yes, eliminating the Arkansas Professional Soil Classifiers license would pose a risk of substantial harm to consumers. The license ensures that only certified individuals with the required knowledge and training engage in soil classification work, which includes assessing soil's capacity to support structures, maintain stability, and drain efficiently.

2. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by unauthorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?

Response: The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) has not received any complaints regarding the unauthorized practice of soil classification.

3. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by authorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?

Response: The Department has not received any complaints regarding licensed soil classifiers.

4. Were any applicants who otherwise met authorization requirements denied an authorization in the past year? If so, why?

Response: No.

5. How much does the occupational entity collect annually in fees, and what are annual expenses? How much money does the occupational entity have in reserves?

Response: The Department collected fees in the amount of \$610.00 in Fiscal Year 2025. Annual expenses, excluding Department staff time, totaled \$50.00 in Fiscal Year 2025. The Department currently has reserves totaling \$20,103.98.

6. If the occupational entity has a positive amount in reserves, when was the last time reserve funds were used? For what purpose?

Response: In 2025, the Department paid cybersecurity insurance expenses from the reserve funds.

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Occupational Entity Questionnaire

7. Does the occupational entity have any other sources of revenue? Could occupational authorization fees be reduced without causing the occupational entity to be underfunded?

Response: The Department has no other sources of revenue for the occupational license program and earns less than \$650.00 per year in interest from the reserves account. A reduction in license fees could affect the Department's ability to administer the program long term, including evaluating applicant qualifications, issuing licenses, permits, and renewals, and investigating complaints.

8. How many applicants for the occupational authorization fail each year? Does the occupational entity track how many applicants that do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities?

Response: There have been no exam failures in the last three years. The Department tracks the number of applicants who fail the exam and are veterans, women, or minorities.

9. Can applicants complete the training requirements for this occupational authorization with vocational or non-traditional education (e.g., apprenticeships)? What percentage of applicants complete apprenticeships?

Response: No. Applicants must meet specific education requirements and complete a four-year course of study leading to a Bachelor of Science or higher degree from an accredited college or university with a major in a pertinent field of agricultural or physical science, including specific hours in biological, physical, earth, and soil sciences.

10. In what ways would removal of the occupational authorization or reduction of occupational authorization requirements be harmful to current authorization holders?

Response: Current license requirements ensure that practitioners have the necessary education and training to engage in the technical and scientific work of soil classification. For example, soil classification is important in civil engineering for drainage systems, roadway construction, site selection, and foundation design. Removing license requirements could lead to improperly educated and untrained individuals engaging in site planning, percolation tests, and other soil-related activities, which is likely to result in harm to the public and property.