QUESTIONS TO ASK AN ALT-152 (VIRTUAL SMOKE SCHOOL) PROVIDER

Use this checklist to compare virtual smoke school providers before choosing a program for EPA Method 9 certification. Ask for specific answers and verify regulatory claims with the appropriate agency.

01 EPA approval & state recognition

- ☐ Is your program approved by the U.S. EPA under ALT-152?
- ☐ Have you directly contacted my state regulatory agency about your program's acceptance or any required authorization or registration?
- ☐ Who at the state agency confirmed your program's status, and can you provide their contact information so I can verify it?
- ☐ Are there any state-specific conditions or restrictions that apply to a certification in my state?

02 Accuracy of smoke recordings

- ☐ How do you control camera exposure, depth of field, and focus so recorded smoke opacity remains accurate and consistent as opacity increases?
- ☐ Explain the importance of aperture settings when recording smoke. What is the minimum aperture you use?
- ☐ Do you use manual focus when recording? Are any automatic settings used for either the lens or camera during recording?

03 VR headsets & ease of use

- ☐ Can I use a commercially available, standalone VR headset, or must I purchase specialized equipment?
- ☐ Is the headset locked to your program, or can it be used for other purposes and with other providers?
- ☐ Can multiple employees share one headset?
- ☐ Does the program run in the headset's pre-installed web browser, or must I install special apps or software?

04 Program access & fees

- ☐ Can I explore the full program from a desktop or laptop before obtaining a VR headset?
- ☐ Do I have to pay or make a commitment before accessing the program?
- ☐ Are there limits on practice sessions or visual-test attempts?
- ☐ Can I review my errors and test results after a failed attempt?
- ☐ What does certification cost, and are there any setup fees, recurring subscriptions, or other charges?

05 Administrator accounts

- ☐ Can administrators see which employees are currently certified?
- ☐ Can administrators access employee certificates and testing histories?
- ☐ Will administrators receive reminders before employee certifications expire?
- ☐ Can our organization pay by invoice instead of requiring each student to pay individually?

06 Student Support

- ☐ Who answers student questions about training, EPA Method 9, and visible emissions observations?
- ☐ What direct EPA Method 9 and ALT-152 technical experience does your support team have?
- ☐ If a certification or observation is questioned in a regulatory or legal proceeding, what technical documentation or support can you provide?

WHY THESE QUESTIONS MATTER

EPA Method 9 observations can be used in regulatory enforcement and may face legal scrutiny. Choose a provider with verifiable regulatory standing, accurate test recordings and relevant technical expertise.

PROVIDER / NOTES