



Operator Certification Exams

A comparison of Ohio EPA’s traditional exam format to ABC’s Third Party exam format

Third Party Examination Providers

Ohio EPA is pleased to announce alternative water and wastewater operator certification examinations, which are available more frequently and in more locations than Ohio EPA’s traditional paper and pencil testing. The State of Ohio has approved the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) as an approved examination provider. Operators may now choose to take an ABC examination and then seek State of Ohio certification for all levels of certification except Class IV. Applications for the traditional paper and pencil testing are available on [Ohio EPA’s Operator Certification Web site](#). To find out more about the ABC certification program, please visit [ABC’s Ohio Certification website](#).

Ohio EPA Examination Format Comparison

	Ohio EPA Traditional “paper and pencil” exams	ABC Third Party “computerized” exams
Key features to help determine what exam is best for me.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 questions (20 math, 30 theory) • Paper and pencil format • Given 2 times per year in Columbus • 5 or 6 hour time limit to complete the exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 questions • Computerized • Can be taken every 30 days in multiple locations throughout Ohio • 3 hour time limit to complete the exam
How do I know if I am eligible to take an exam?	You must have a high school diploma or equivalent. You shall not have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a criminal charge of falsification, fraud or terrorism. You must not have had any Ohio operator certifications revoked or currently have a certification under suspension. You shall not have had a certificate revoked or currently suspended in any other state.	
How do I apply for an exam?	Submit the application for Water and Wastewater Exams through the eBusiness Center and the fee to Ohio EPA, at least 90 days prior to the examination date.	Online registration for ABC exams is entered on the registration website where test takers will schedule the day, time, and location of their exam.
How much are the exams?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A \$80 • Class 1 \$105 • Class 2 \$120 • Class 3 \$130 <p>Checks or Money Orders made payable to “Treasurer, State of Ohio”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$110 per examination (Payment may be submitted to ABC by credit/debit card) • \$45 application fee to apply to Ohio EPA for certification (Checks or Money Orders made payable to “Treasurer, State of Ohio”)
Where is the exam located?	Exams are given in the Lausche Building at the Ohio Expo Center and State Fair Grounds in Columbus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC’s testing partner has 5 locations around the state of Ohio. Locations can be found in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo. There are also locations in the other 49 states. In order to find exact locations register for the test on ABC’s Ohio Certification Website

Title

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What are the experience requirements for certification?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class A: 1,040 hours operating experience or 3 years working experience• Class 1: 12 months (2,080 hours) operating experience• Class 2: 36 months operating experience• Class 3: 60 months operating experience, with 12 months operating experience as a certified Class 2 operator in that field. <p>NOTE: Applicants for the Class A, 1, or 2 examinations that do not meet the experience requirements may take the examination and be designated an Operator In Training (OIT). An OIT must obtain the required amount of operating experience within 4 years of their examination date. Once an operator designated as an OIT has completed the required amount of operating experience they may submit either an OIT Documentation form (OEPA exams) or an Application for Certification after Passing Exam through an Examination Provider (ABC exams). OIT status is not available for the Class 3 examinations.</p> <p>Operators should not submit an <i>OIT Documentation Form</i> or an <i>Application for Certification after Passing Exam through an Examination Provider</i> until such time as they meet all of the experience requirements.</p>	
How do I prepare for the exam?	A list of Need To Know Criteria, Formulas, and References can be found on the Ohio EPA Operator Certification website. The Need To Know Criteria can be used as an outline.	ABC offers Need to Know Criteria, as well as, References, Formula Sheets, and sample exam questions for their exams. Visit the ABC Ohio Certification Information website for information.

Contact

For more information, contact the Operator Certification Unit at opcert@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 644-2752.