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How to Become a Certified Water or Wastewater Operator

Certified Water and Wastewater Operators serve a very important role, helping to ensure people receive safe drinking water and wastewater is discharged in an environmentally safe manner.

There is expected to be an increased demand for certified operators in the future due to retirement of existing operators. A career in this field can be very rewarding, often with good pay and benefits, and with the satisfaction that comes from providing an important service to your community.

To become a certified Class A, I, II, III or IV Water Supply, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment or Wastewater Collection operator in the State of Ohio, you must apply for and pass the state operator certification exam and document the appropriate level of hands on work experience.

Exam Eligibility

To apply for the exam you must have a high school diploma or the equivalent, and the amount

of operating experience identified in the table below.

If you do not have the operating experience required to become certified at the Class A, Class I or II level, you may still be approved to take the exam. If you pass the exam, you will be designated as an "operator in training" (OIT) and allowed up to 48 months to fulfill the operating experience requirement. OIT status is not available for Class III or IV certification.

Exam Application

Ohio EPA holds exams twice a year, in May and November. Applications must be postmarked ninety (90) days prior to the date of the exam.

There is a \$45 application fee due at the time of application. Upon acceptance of the application, Ohio EPA will send a letter to the applicant specifying the amount and due date of the exam fee.

The exam fee is \$35 for Class A, \$60 for Class I, \$75 for Class II, \$85 for Class III, and \$100 for Class IV.

All applicants seeking a water certification must submit a Declaration Regarding Material Assistance/Non Assistance to a Terrorist Organization (DMA form) with the application.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security Terrorist Exclusion List must be reviewed prior to completing this form. A link to the DMA form and list are available on the operator certification Web site at

www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx.

Preparing for the Exam

The operator certification Web site includes references used to create exam questions, need to know criteria and formulas that may help you prepare for the exam.

Ohio EPA does not require completion of any coursework prior to applying for an exam. However, many people believe this helps when preparing for an exam.

Ohio EPA does not offer exam study courses or practice exams. However, there are a number of training providers that do offer courses.

For More Information

Visit our Web site at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx, e-mail the operator certification unit at opcert@epa.state.oh.us or call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-411-OPCT (6728).

Classification	Operating Experience
A*	12 months
I	12 months
II*	36 months
III*	60 months, including 12 months as a Class II operator
IV**	36 months as a Class III, including 24 months management experience at a Class III or IV facility

* Reductions available for education and course completion. Contact Ohio EPA for details.

** More information on the Class IV exam can be found on the operator certification Web site at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx.