



## How to Become a Certified Water or Wastewater Operator

*Serve your community by helping to ensure people receive safe drinking water and wastewater is discharged in an environmentally safe manner.*

### Eligibility

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.

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 to the right. 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.

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, 24 months management experience at a Class II or IV facility

\* Reductions available for education and course completion. Contact Ohio EPA for details.  
\*\* More information about the Class IV exam can be found online at [epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx)

### Application and Fees

Ohio EPA holds Class A, I, II, and III exams twice a year, in May and November. Applications must be saved and/or submitted through the Ohio EPA eBusiness Center by the application deadline which is ninety (90) days prior to the date of the exam. There is an examination fee of \$80 for Class A, \$105 for Class I, \$120 for Class II, \$130 for Class III and \$145 for Class IV.

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](#).

### Preparing for the Exam

The operator certification website 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.

### More Information

Visit our website at [epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx), email the operator certification unit at [opcert@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:opcert@epa.state.oh.us) or call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-411-OPCT (6728).