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Water Boards
Division of Financial Assistance



Office of Operator Certification

Drinking Water / Wastewater Program Comparison



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Office of Operator Certification Comparison Sheet



	Drinking Water (Treatment)	Drinking Water (Distribution)	Wastewater
Mission	To ensure that skilled professionals are overseeing the treatment and distribution of safe drinking water. Operator certification is an important step in promoting compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.		To Protect Public Health and the environment by providing for the effective operation of WWTPs through certification of wastewater treatment plant operators.
Program Start Date	1971	2001	1972
Number of Operators	14,000	20,000	6,000
Certification Experience	T1) None T2) None T3) 2 years (with one year as a Grade 2) T4) 4 years (with one year as a Grade 3) T5) 5 years (with two years as a Grade 4)	D1) None D2) None D3) 2 years (with one year as a Grade 2) D4) 4 years (with one year as a Grade 3) D5) 5 years (with two years as a Grade 4)	I) One year II) Minimum one to two years* III) Minimum one to four years* IV) Minimum two to six years* V) Minimum four to ten years* *There are multiple paths available please see the Operator Certification Requirements Table, page 29.



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	Drinking Water (Treatment)	Drinking Water (Distribution)	Wastewater
Experience Substitutions	A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted for all or part of the additional years		Sixteen educational points can be irrevocably substituted for one year of experience (accept for the first year of experience)
Renewals	Three years, requires continuing education		Two years, currently, no continuing education required.
Operator-In-Training	None	None	Two year OIT certification issued to the Wastewater Plant for an Operator to gain 1,800 hours for one year of full-time qualifying experience.
Examination Dates	Twice a year in May and November	Twice a year in March and September	Twice a year in April and October
Exam Waiver	Offered only for T1-T3 and D1-D3 for Operators who hold valid certificates from other states who whose requirements are similar to California.		Offered for Grade I to Grade V Operators who hold valid certificates from other certifying bodies whose requirements are comparable to California.



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Minimum Examination Requirements	T1) High School (HS) or GED or 1 year specific experience	D1) High School (HS) or GED or 1 year specific experience	Grade I) High School (HS) / GED & 6 Educational Points
	T2) HS Diploma/GED, & one specialized training course	D2) HS Diploma/GED, & one specialized training course	Grade II) HS Diploma/GED & 9 Educational Points *
	T3) HS Diploma/GED & two specialized training courses	D3) Valid D2 certificate & two specialized training courses	Grade III) HS Diploma/GED & 12 Educational Points *
	T4) Valid T3 certificate & three specialized training courses	D4) Valid D3 certificate & three specialized training courses	Grade IV) HS Diploma/GED & 32 Educational Points *
	T5) Valid T4 certificate & four specialized training courses	D5) Valid D4 certificate & four specialized training courses	Grade V) HS Diploma/GED & 48 Educational Points *

*There are multiple paths available please see the Operator Certification Requirements Table, page 29.



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Fees for Examinations	<u>First Exam</u>	<u>Re-Exam</u>	
Grade 1/I	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$140.00
Grade 2/II	\$65.00	\$45.00	\$180.00
Grade 3/III	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$350.00
Grade 4/IV	\$130.00	\$95.00	\$440.00
Grade 5/V	\$155.00	\$120.00	\$440.00
Certifications & Renewals	<u>One Certificate</u>	<u>Dual Certified</u>	
Grade 1/I	\$70.00	\$55.00	\$170.00
Grade 2/II	\$80.00	\$60.00	\$230.00
Grade 3/III	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$300.00
Grade 4/IV	\$140.00	\$105.00	\$340.00
Grade 5/V	\$140.00	\$105.00	\$340.00
Renewal/ Reinstatement fee	\$50.00 after renewal due date but 45 days prior to the expiration date. \$100.00 up to one year after the expiration date.		\$100.00 accepted up to one year after the expiration date.

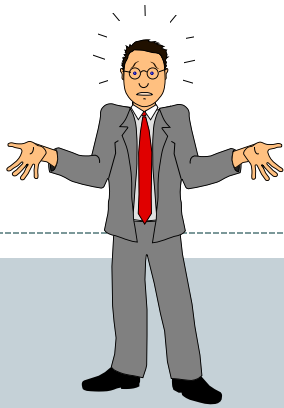


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	Drinking Water (Treatment)	Drinking Water (Distribution)	Wastewater
Re-exam fee	There is a smaller fee for re-examinations		The fee is the same for re-examinations
Discounts	Operators who hold both Treatment & Distribution certificates receive a discounted rate for certifications and renewals.		Currently, there are not any discounted rates.
Experience Substitutions	A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted for all or part of the additional years		Sixteen educational points can be irrevocably substituted for one year of experience (accept for the first year of experience)
Renewals	Three years, require continuing education		Two years, currently no continuing education required.
Website Access	Go to www.waterboards.ca.gov Click on Operator Certification Under the announcements click on the link to the Drinking Water Operator Certification Program		Go to www.waterboards.ca.gov Click on Operator Certification



Questions?



Website:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification

- ❖ **Applications**
- ❖ **Regulations**
- ❖ **Contract Operator List**
- ❖ **Advisory Committee**
- ❖ **Email Subscriptions**
- ❖ **Frequently Asked Questions**

Contact Information



GENERAL INFORMATION – Opcertprogram@waterboards.ca.gov

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Staff Services Manager I, Drinking Water Operator Certification