



Water Treatment

Minimum Qualifications for Examination/Certification

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Minimum Qualifications for Certification
T1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School or GED* 	Successful completion of the Grade T1 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification
T2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School or GED* AND • <u>One 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> course of specialized training covering the fundamentals of drinking water treatment 	Successful completion of the Grade T2 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification
T3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School or GED* AND • <u>Two 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> courses of specialized training; one of which is in the fundamentals of drinking water treatment AND a second course in either drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, or distribution 	Successful completion of the Grade T3 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, AND: <u>One year</u> of operator experience working as a certified T2 operator for a T2 facility or higher (may be substituted with (3) below) AND: <u>One additional year</u> of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1), (2) or (4) below)
T4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of a valid T3 certificate AND • <u>Three 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> courses of specialized training; two of which are in the fundamentals of drinking water treatment AND a third course in either drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, or distribution 	Successful completion of the Grade T4 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, AND: <u>One year</u> of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T3 operator certificate for a T3 facility or higher (may be substituted with (3) below) AND: <u>Three additional years</u> of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)
T5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of a valid T4 certificate AND • <u>Four 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> course of specialized training; two of which are in the fundamentals of drinking water treatment AND two other courses in either drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, or distribution 	Successful completion of the Grade T5 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, AND: <u>Two years</u> of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T4 operator certificate for a T4 facility or higher (no substitutions) AND: <u>Three additional years</u> of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)

*High school/GED equivalency for **Grades 1 and 2 only** can be fulfilled with one year of experience as an operator of a facility that required an understanding of chemical feeds, hydraulic systems, or pumps. This must be verified with a copy of your utility's official job description for your position.

<p>Experience substitutions for certification, as referenced above.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Associate Degree or Certificate in Water or Wastewater Technology that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological science may be used to fulfill 1 year of general operator experience. b) Bachelor Degree in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental engineering, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill 1.5 years of general operator experience. c) Masters Degree in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill 2 years of general operator experience. 2) A certified operator may substitute, on a day-for-day basis, experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality related projects or research (i.e., pilot plant). 3) If an applicant has a Bachelor of Science or Master of Science Degree, completion of a comprehensive operator training program, pursuant to Section 63800 (h), may be substituted for the required experience. 4) Experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment operator may be used to substitute up to 2 years of the general experience requirement. Wastewater treatment operator experience is credited on a two-for-one basis (2 months in wastewater = 1 month in drinking water).
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