## Drinking Water Distribution
### Minimum Qualifications for Certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Qualifications for CERTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>Successful completion of the <strong>Grade D1</strong> examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2</td>
<td>Successful completion of the <strong>Grade D2</strong> examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| D3    | Successful completion of the **Grade D3** examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application **AND**  
At least **one year** of operator experience working as a certified D2 operator, interim D3 or higher operator, or temporary D3 operator for a D2 system or higher or a system that prior to January 1, 2001 would have met the criteria for classification as a D2 system or higher **AND**  
At least **one additional year** of operator experience working as a distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below. |
| D4    | Successful completion of the **Grade D4** examination within the three years prior to submitting the certification application **AND**  
At least **one year** of operator experience working as a certified D3 operator, interim D4 or higher operator, or temporary D4 operator for a D3 system or higher or a system that prior to January 1, 2001 would have met the criteria for classification as a D3 system or higher **AND**  
At least **three additional years** of operator experience working as a distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below. |
| D5    | Successful completion of the **Grade D5** examination within the three years prior to submitting the certification application **AND**  
At least **two years** of operator experience working as a certified D4 operator, interim D5 or higher operator, or temporary D5 operator for a D4 or D5 system or a system that prior to January 1, 2001 would have met the criteria for classification as a D4 or D5 system **AND**  
At least **three additional years** of operator experience working as a distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below. |

### Experience substitutions for certification, as referenced above.

1. A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows:
   a) Associate’s 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 operator experience**.
   b) Bachelor’s Degree in Biology, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Microbiology, Public Health, or Sanitary Engineering may be used to fulfill **1.5 years of operator experience**.
   c) Master’s Degree in the above mentioned fields in (b) may be used to fulfill **2 years of operator experience**.
2. A certified operator may substitute, on a day-for-day basis, **1 additional year of operator experience** working as a distribution operator with experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality or quantity related projects or research.

Revised 4/2020