



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
Fees			
Examinations	First Exam	Re-Exam	
Grade 1/I	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$140.00
Grade 2/II	\$65.00	\$45.00	\$180.00
Grade 3/III	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$350.00
Grade 4/IV	\$130.00	\$95.00	\$340.00
Grade 5/V	\$155.00	\$120.00	\$340.00
Certifications & Renewals	One Certificate	Dual Certified	
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.
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 and Distribution certificates receive a discounted rate for certifications and renewals.		Currently, there are not any discounted rates.
Examination Dates	Twice a year in May and November	Twice a year in March and September	Twice a year in April and October (In 2015 Easter is on April 5, consequently the exam is on 3/28/15.)
Exam Waiver	Offered only for T1-T3 and D1-D3 for Operators who hold valid certificates from other states 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	<p>T1) High School (HS) or GED or 1 year specific experience</p> <hr/> <p>T2) HS Diploma/GED, & One Specialized training course</p> <hr/> <p>T3) HS Diploma/GED & Two specialized training courses</p> <hr/> <p>T4) Valid T3 certificate & Three specialized training</p> <hr/> <p>T5) Valid T4 certificate & Four specialized training courses</p>	<p>D1) High School (HS) or GED or 1 year specific experience</p> <hr/> <p>D2) HS Diploma/GED, & One Specialized training course</p> <hr/> <p>D3) Valid D2 certificate & Two specialized training courses</p> <hr/> <p>D4) Valid D3 certificate & Three specialized training</p> <hr/> <p>D5) Valid D4 Certificate & Four specialized training courses</p>	<p>Grade I) High School (HS) *</p> <hr/> <p>Grade II) HS Diploma/GED & 9 Educational Points *</p> <hr/> <p>Grade III) HS Diploma/GED & 12 Educational Points *</p> <hr/> <p>Grade IV) HS Diploma/GED & 32 Educational Points *</p> <hr/> <p>Grade V) HS Diploma/GED & 48 Educational Points *</p> <p>*There are multiple paths available please see the Operator Certification Requirements Table, page 29.</p>
Certifications Levels	Five levels - T1 to T5	Five levels from D1 to D5	Five levels from Grade I to Grade V
Certification experience	<p>T1) None</p> <hr/> <p>T2) None</p> <hr/> <p>T3) 2 years (with one year as a Grade 2)</p> <hr/> <p>T4) 4 years (with one year as a Grade 3)</p> <hr/> <p>T5) 5 years (with two years as a Grade 4)</p>	<p>D1) None</p> <hr/> <p>D2) None</p> <hr/> <p>D3) 2 years (with one year as a Grade 2)</p> <hr/> <p>D4) 4 years (with one year as a Grade 3)</p> <hr/> <p>D5) 5 years (with two years as a Grade 4)</p>	<p>I) One year</p> <hr/> <p>II) Minimum one to two years*</p> <hr/> <p>III) Minimum one to four years*</p> <hr/> <p>IV) Minimum two to six years*</p> <hr/> <p>V) Minimum four to ten years*</p> <p>*There are multiple paths available please see the Operator Certification Requirements Table, page 29.</p>
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.
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



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Water Boards
Division of Financial Assistance