

Water and Wastewater Certification Guideline UPDATES

Certification Levelling Up

The one-year period between taking the next level of exam has been reduced to four months.

- You can apply after three months.
- You still need to meet the minimum requirements for the level of exam as set out in the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Guidelines.

Current Operating Experience

Has been increased from three years to six years.

- Ex. If you have not been working in a specific discipline for the last three years EPA will recognized relevant experience back to six years.

Certificate Reduction

Certificates will no longer be reduced to one level above the facility/system classification if you are working in a lower-level facility/system than you are certified.

- Ex. If you are Level IV in water treatment then move to a facility that is Level I, you will still be able to maintain your Level IV certification in water treatment as long as renewal requirements are met for the level of certificate held.

Challenging Certification Exams

Challenging certification exams is now done through EPA.

- Email Waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca
- Exam eligibility will follow the same process as other exams but you do not have to meet the minimum requirements as set out guidelines
 - Submit application form prior to application deadline
 - Approved after CAC meeting and uploaded to PSI
 - Schedule exam within the approved exam window

Operating In Training (OIT)

Alberta specific OIT certification is now available. If you meet the below criteria and wish to obtain a OIT certificate, please email waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca to request an application form. OIT is not mandatory and is not eligible for reciprocity.

- Completion of Approved Mandatory Training Course for Level I (minimum 1.2 CEU's)
- Grade 12 or equivalent
- Pass Level I certification exam

Waiting Period Between Exam Rewrites

The waiting period between exams for rewrites has been reduced to 30 days.

- You are eligible to apply 30 days after an unsuccessful attempt
- Exam approval will follow the same process as all certification exams.??

Direct Responsible Charge (DRC) Plan

DRC plans are required for municipalities that require more than one operator obtaining DRC hours at the same time. There are two forms that must be completed. Forms are located on the EPA Operator Portal under Resources.

- The DRC Facility Plan must be filled out by the facility authorized approver (owner/representative)
- The DRC Operator form must be completed by each operator applying for Level III and IV
- Both forms must be uploaded into the operator's exam application

Certificate Renewal Without Experience

Operators can renew and maintain their certification without experience with no limit on renewals as per below requirements:

- CEU requirement has been met as per the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Guidelines
- Apply for renewal in the EPA Operator Portal and pay the renewal fee as per the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Guidelines

The change will be retroactive to certificates that have been inactive for three years or less. If the certificate became inactive in 2022, 2023 or 2024 the certificate can be reactivated, once the CEU requirement is met. A reactivation fee of \$130 will apply if you do not have an active certification. If you have an active certification, there will be no extra charges. Please send an email to waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca once you have applied so that the fees can be reviewed.