

Water Operator Careers

Certified operators help improve compliance with regulations, minimize public health concerns, and maximize the performance of the system. Water Operators perform and oversee the daily operations of public water systems.

- Protect Water Sources
- Monitor Water Usage
- Treat the Water
- Monitor Water Quality
- Distribute the Water
- Maintain the Water System

Operator Certification Program

The Water Operator Certification Program establishes minimum standards for certification & recertification of water operators.

- Develops & administers the certification exams
- Issues water operator certifications
- Tracks Continuing Education Units (CEU's)
- Processes certificate renewals
- Implements & enforces rules for water operators

WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATIONS

Public Water Systems may be required to have a certified operator at a certain grade level depending on the system's classification, population, and complexity.

Discipline & Grade Levels by Population

DISTRIBUTION	TREATMENT
Small System: 25-500	Grade 1: 25-1,500
Grade 1: 501-1,500	
Grade 2: 1,501-5,000	Grade 2: 1,501-5,000
Grade 3: 5,001-15,000	Grade 3: 5,001-15,000
Grade 4: > 15,001	Grade 4: > 15,001

New Resources

HIRING OPERATOR

Water systems may submit new positions through our [Hiring Operator](#) page and operators may subscribe to receive notices. This helps water systems fill open positions & connect with certified operators who are seeking employment

RWAU APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

This two-year program includes on-site training, a wage schedule, and much more. Contact the Rural Water Association of Utah (RWAU) for more details. Find more information at: rwau.net/apprenticeship-program/

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Operator certification details including grade levels, CEU's, expiration dates, & water system are available online at WaterLink.utah.gov in the public section.

CEU PORTAL

Water systems & training providers may request access to submit courses through our Portal. The Portal gives access to create courses, to see the status of those courses (submitted, accepted, or rejected), and to submit CEU pre-authorization requests. More details and instructions are available online at: deq.utah.gov/drinking-water/ceu-portal

TRAINING

The Division has CEU opportunities, a training calendar, study materials, videos, & more online on the [Training](#) page.

Division of Drinking Water (DDW)
Operator Certification Program
P.O. Box 144830
Salt Lake, UT 84114
Email: DDWOpCert@utah.gov
Web: DDWOpCert.utah.gov



UTAH DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
**DRINKING
WATER**



Operator Certification Program

DDWOpCert.utah.gov

Become Certified

A professional certification exam & renewal is required to be a certified water operator. Individuals who have passed a certification exam in another state and are seeking employment in Utah may request [Reciprocity](#).

CERTIFICATION STEPS

1. Study
2. Register for an Exam
3. Pass the Exam
4. Maintain Certification
 - CEU's start the following year on January 1st
 - Renew every 3-years

CERTIFICATION EXAMS

The exam consists of a 100 multiple choice questions & a minimum of 70% is required to pass. The exams consist of a set number of questions from 6 categories & the difficulty increases as grade level increases. All certification exams are proctored & timed. Find study guides, presentations, & more on our [Study](#) page.

The exam will cover these six categories:

1. Math
2. Chemical Feed
3. Safety & Security
4. Pumps
5. Rules
6. Operation & Maintenance

EXAM REGISTRATION STEPS

1. Complete the steps on the [Exam Application](#)
2. Submit application
 - Online Exams \$150
 - Register with RWAU (Available year-round & state-wide)
 - Paper Exams \$200
 - Register with DDW
 - Spring exam in St. George
 - Fall exam in Layton
3. Pay the exam fee

Maintain Certification

Certifications are due for renewal every 3-years on December 31st. Operators are required to obtain CEU's before applying for Renewal.

CEU's by Grade Levels

SS, 1 & 2	2.0 CEUs (20 Hours)
3 & 4	3.0 CEUs (30 Hours)

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEU'S)

A Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is defined as 10 contact hours of participation in, & successful completion of, an organized & approved training education experience under qualified instruction.

CEU's Conversions

TIME	CEU'S
15 mins	0.025
30 mins	0.05
1 hour	0.1
10 hours	1.0

CEU CREDIT STEPS

All CEU's shall be subject to review for approval to ensure that the training is applicable to waterworks operation & meets CEU criteria. Incomplete CEU submissions will be **rejected**.

1. Complete all of the steps on the [CEU Application](#) with course description
2. Attach course documentation
3. Submit application and course documentation to the Division

RENEWAL STEPS

Operators are required to complete all of the steps for renewal or it will expire.

1. Meet CEU requirements
2. Pay the renewal fee for each certificate
3. Submit a [Renewal Application](#)

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Operator certification details, including grade levels, CEU's, expiration dates, & water system is available on-line at [WaterLink.utah.gov](#) in the public section.

UPDATING CONTACT & EMPLOYER INFO

Notify the Division in writing if your employer or if your contact information changes so we can update our records.

RESTRICTED & UNRESTRICTED STRATUS

Certifications are deemed Restricted until operators gain the necessary experience for Unrestricted Status. The number of years required to become unrestricted is determined by certification grade level and education.

Unrestricted Status Steps

1. Meet the [Minimum Qualifications](#) for Unrestricted Status
2. Complete the steps on the [Unrestricted Status Application](#)
3. Submit application to DDW for approval

DIRECT RESPONSIBLE CHARGE (DRC)

DRC Operators are active on-site operators that make decisions that affect the quality and quantity of the water. Operators must gain the necessary experience, be certified at the system's classification level, and then apply to be registered as a DRC.

DRC Operator Steps

1. Meet the Minimum Qualifications
2. Complete the steps on the [Direct Responsible Charge Application](#)
3. Submit application to DDW for approval

More information about **Becoming Certified:**
[deq.utah.gov/drinking-water/become-certified](#)

More information about **CEU's & Renewal:**
[deq.utah.gov/drinking-water/certification-renewal](#)

More information about **Becoming Certified:**
[deq.utah.gov/drinking-water/become-certified](#)