

Operator Certification Rules

Rule 309-300 Summary

Summary

These rules cover the certification of water system operators.

Coverage

This rule applies to all Community and Non-Transient Non-Community drinking water supply systems serving more than 25 individuals and all public drinking water systems that utilize surface water sources or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water.

General

There are two classifications of Certified Operators: a) “Certified” Operators are individuals who are actively involved in operating public water systems and b) “Specialists” are those involved with the water industry but not actively involved with operating a public water system. A Distribution System or Treatment Plant manager is required to be certified at the grade of the waterworks system with an appropriate unrestricted certificate. All other direct responsible charge operators shall be certified at the classification of the water system. Where 24-hour shift operation is used or required, one operator per shift must be certified at the classification of the system operated.

When a system required to have a Certified Operator finds itself without one, they must obtain an appropriately certified operator within one year, or four examination cycles, whichever is longer. An operator who is acting as the direct responsible charge operator for more than one drinking water system shall not be a Grandfather certified operator. A regional operator must have an unrestricted certificate equal to or higher than the grade and discipline of the rating applied to each system he is operating.

Examinations

All examinations shall be given twice a year, generally at each of 12 district health department office. If an operator taking the examination fails to pass, he may file an application for reexamination. The minimum passing grade for all exams shall be 70 percent. An individual who has failed to pass two consecutive written exams may apply to take an oral exam. Examinations will be given in four grades in water treatment and five in water distribution, covering: a) general water supply knowledge, b) control processes in water treatment or distribution, c) operation, maintenance, and emergency procedures, d) proper record keeping, and e) laws, requirements, and water quality standards.

Certificates

A restricted certificate will be issued to those operators who have passed a higher grade examination than the grade for which they have qualified for by experience. Upon accumulating the necessary experience, these restricted certificates will become unrestricted with the same renewal date. Grandfather certificates will be restricted to the person, position, and water system for which they were issued. Specialist Certificate will be issued to those persons who have met

the experience requirements and have successfully passed the written examination. An individual who currently holds a valid Certificate and who is no longer directly employed by a Utah drinking water system may request his Certificate be converted to a Specialist with the same expiration date.

All certificates will expire on December 31, three years from the year of issuance. Failure to remain active in the waterworks can result in denial of Certificate renewal. Reinstatement or renewal of a lapsed certificate may occur by payment of the fee and/or passing an examination. Renewal of a lapsed Certificate may occur without examination within 6 months of expiration date. Reinstatement of a lapsed certificate may occur by appealing to the Commission within one year after the 6 month grace period. Training, experience, education and progress made since the certificate lapsed will be considered in the reinstatement process.

Certificate Suspension and Revocation Procedures

The following may be grounds for suspending or revoking a Certificate: a) demonstrated disregard for the public health, b) falsification of data, c) cheating on a certification exam, or d) mental or physical incapacity. Any suspension or revocation may be appealed to the Drinking Water Board by filing a request for a hearing with the Executive Secretary.

Facility Classification System

WATER TREATMENT PLANT CLASSIFICATION

Grade	1	2	3	4
Population served	1500 or less	1501 to 5000	5001 to 15,000	over 15,000

DISTRIBUTION CLASSIFICATION

Grade	Small System	1	2	3	4
Population served	25 to 500	501 to 1500	1501 to 5000	5001 to 15,000	over 15,000

CEUs and Approved Training

The following CEU's shall be obtained by a Certificate holder every three years before the individual's certificate can be renewed:

<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>CEUs REQUIRED IN A 3-YEAR PERIOD</u>
Small System	2
Grade 1	2
Grade 2	2
Grade 3	3
Grade 4	3

Non-compliance with Certification Program.

After appropriate consideration by the Commission, cases of non-compliance will be referred to the Drinking Water Board for appropriate enforcement action.

Minimum Qualifications for Certification

MINIMUM REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR
UTAH WATERWORKS OPERATORS

Certification Grade (Both Dist. & Treatment)	EDUCATION			EXPERIENCE		
	Degree	Assoc. Degree	High School	Non High School	Charge Years	Respon. Total Years
4	X				2	4
		X			2	6
			X		4	8
				X	5	10
3	X				1	2
		X			1	2
			X		2	4
2				X	3	6
	X				0	2
		X			0	2
			X		0	2
1 & Small System				X	0	3
	X				0	1
		X			0	1
			X		0	1
			X	0	1	

GRADE (both Distribution and Treatment)	EXPERIENCE	
	"Hands On" Experience (Years)	Design or Associated Experience (Years)
4	8	10
3	4	8
2	2	4
1 & Small System	0	0