

WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

1D Water Operator:

- ☐ employed with a PWS;
- ☐ completed EW-102F, which includes proof of 8th grade completion;
- ☐ attended 1 day WVBPH course; and,
- ☐ passed the 1D certification exam with a 70% or higher.

Water Operator-in-Training (OIT):

- ☐ employed with a PWS; and,
- ☐ completed EW-102E, which includes proof of high school or GED diploma and PWS Chief Operator signing off on responsibility for individuals training.

Water Distribution (WD) Operator:

- ☐ employed with a PWS;
- ☐ completed EW-102C;
- ☐ attended WVBPH-approved WD training course
- ☐ passed WD certification exam with a 70% or higher; and,
- ☐ documented proof of 1,000 hours (~6 months full-time) OIT or PWS experience at a WD or higher PWS.
 - Note: Until April 18, 2009, current 1D operators employed in a WD or higher classification system may apply to be reclassified as a WD operator by passing the exam and meeting the minimum educational and experience requirements.

Class I Water Operator:

- ☐ employed with a PWS;
- ☐ completed EW-102C;
- ☐ attended WVBPH-approved week long Class I training course
- ☐ passed Class I certification exam with a 70% or higher; and,
- ☐ documented proof of 2,000 hours (~1 year full-time) OIT or PWS experience.
 - Note: Experience gained in WD or 1D counts for no more than 600 hours.

Class II Water Operator:

- ☐ employed with a PWS;
- ☐ completed EW-102C;
- ☐ attended WVBPH-approved week long Class II training course
- ☐ passed Class II certification exam with a 70% or higher; and,
- ☐ documented proof of 6,000 hours (~3 years full-time) PWS experience with 2,000 of those at a Class II or higher PWS.
 - Note: Can substitute up to half of the required experience (~1.5 years full-time or 3,000 hours) with WVBPH approved education (CEUs), but still will need 3,000 hours (~1.5 years full-time) experience minimum. A CEU is 10 CEHs or any higher education approved by WVBPH. C&T reviews each course for relevancy and assign CEUs on a case-by-case basis. The rules specify courses

relevant to water treatment will count 100% towards CEUs. However, a course not directly related, 50% credit towards CEUs will be given. Thus, a 3 credit hour Music Appreciation course taken at WVU will only be granted 1.5 CEUs. Also, keep in mind you cannot use your education for both minimum education requirements and experience substitution. Therefore, a person with a 4-year degree would be well advised to consider NOT using their degree for experience substitution if they plan to eventually become a Class III or IV operator.

Class III Water Operator:

- ☐ employed with a PWS;
- ☐ completed EW-102C;
- ☐ passed Class III certification exam with a 70% or higher;
- ☐ documented proof of 10,000 hours (~5 years full-time) PWS experience with 2,000 of those at a Class II or higher PWS.
 - Note: Can substitute up to half of required experience (5,000 hours or ~2.5 years full-time) with BPH approved education (CEUs), but will still need 5,000 hours (~2.5 years full-time) experience minimum.
- ☐ documented completion of 90 CEUs.
 - Note: Can substitute all required education (up to 90 CEUs) with 4,000 hours (~2 years full-time) experience.

Class IV Water Operator:

- ☐ employed with a PWS;
- ☐ completed EW-102C;
- ☐ passed Class IV certification exam with a 70% or higher;
- ☐ documented proof of 12,000 hours (~6 years full-time) PWS experience with 2,000 of those at a Class III or higher PWS.
 - Note: Can substitute up to half of required experience (3 years full-time or 6,000 hours) with WVBPH approved education (CEUs), but will still need 6,000 hours (~3 years full-time) experience minimum.
- ☐ documented completion of 180 CEUs.
 - Note: Can substitute up to half of the required education (90 CEUs) with 2 years full-time or 4,000 hours experience but would still need 90 CEUs.

Applying the above information, the fastest an individual without prior certification or higher education beyond high school/GED is 6 years full-time experience and 180 CEUs.

Keep in mind, all operator certification requirements are based on federal and state regulations to **ultimately protect public health**. Each certified PWS operator is responsible in providing adequate supply of safe, potable drinking water to consumers who are confident their water is safe to drink. It is essential these operators not only achieve these minimum requirements for certification but continue to gain knowledge and acknowledge the public health foundation of their career choice in the drinking water industry. Please contact the Certification and Training Section at any time to discuss any aspect of the operator certification program at 304-558-2981.