

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Operator Certification Update

April 2, 2019

Kevin Jarrell

What's New in Operator Certification?

New Rules

Exams

- Third Party Exams
- Paper/Pencil Exams

Website Changes

Certification Renewals

Contact Information

Questions

NEW!

Operations, Resiliency, and Certification Section

Andrew Barienbrock	Environmental Manager	
Dave Riley	Environmental Specialist 2	Reclassifications, Technical Assistance, Emergency Response and Sanitary Survey Auditing
Joshua Legg	Environmental Specialist 2	Operator of Record notifications, Technical Assistance, Sanitary Survey Auditing
<i>Vacant</i>	Environmental Specialist 2	Security, Contingency Planning, Emergency Response Planning, Operator Notifications and Enforcement
<i>Tanushree Courlas</i>	<i>Environmental Supervisor</i>	<i>Operator Certification</i>
Marissa Ganzfried	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact Hours, Advisory Council, eBusiness and application processing
Kevin Jarrell	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact Hours, eBusiness, ACHTP Program, and application processing
Deidra Davis	Administrative Professional 2	Operator Certification, Exams

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

RULE MAKING

Rule Changes

Rule	Effective Changes
Various	Operators will be referred to as Professional Operators
3745-07-01	Laboratory, Pretreatment, and Engineering Experience restrictions <i>Only if the experience is solely in these types of positions.</i>
	Collection and Distribution Experience restrictions <i>Only if applying for a treatment certificate.</i>
	Adding the definition of “Week” <i>“Week” – Sunday to Saturday</i>
3745-07-02	Contracted professional operators shall perform their duties in accordance with the contract operator rule
	Contract must clearly define the responsibilities of the owner and the professional operator

Rule Changes

Rule	Effective Changes
3745-07-03	Distribution System staffing requirements Class 1 – 3 days, Class 2 – 5 days <i>Visit is defined as “a period of time when a person is on-site at a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage system that is sufficient to perform routine sampling, maintenance or observation of a public water system, sewerage systems, or treatment works in order to ensure compliance and proper operation.”</i>
	Clarification of backup operator provisions
	Backup operators are responsible for violations
	Reduction for minimum staffing <i>New provisions to assist with facilities which have flex work schedules.</i>

Rule Changes

Rule	Effective Changes
3745-07-04	Collection System staffing requirements Class 1 – 3 days, Class 2 – 5 days <i>Visit is defined as “a period of time when a person is on-site at a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage system that is sufficient to perform routine sampling, maintenance or observation of a public water system, sewerage systems, or treatment works in order to ensure compliance and proper operation.”</i>
	Clarification of backup operator provisions
	Backup operators are responsible for violations
	Reduction for minimum staffing <i>New provisions to assist with facilities which have flex work schedules.</i>

Rule Changes

Rule	Effective Changes
3745-07-06	Minor clarifications in rule
	Add deadline for submittal of Class IV examination <i>2 years from the date of approval</i>
3745-07-07	Clarification on OITs
3745-07-09	Record keeping requirements
	Display a copy of their certificate (Moved from 3745-7-05)
	Report minimum staffing times to the agency <i>Report in your eDMR/eDWR</i> <i>The agency is working on a different method.</i> <i>Log book is still the official record.</i>
3745-07-13	Fee clarification on Reciprocity applications

Rule Changes

Rule	Effective Changes
3745-07-15	Attendance upload requirement
	Clarification on notification of training sessions
	Renewal date change (11/30)
	Reducing the grace period from 1 year to 6 months
	Penalty provisions for not following course approval requirements
	Requirement to take Ohio EPA course <i>It is a PDF on our website which covers new rules and policies</i>
3745-07-17	Clarification of fees for examination, certification, reciprocity and renewal

Rule Changes

3745-07-21 Contract Operations Companies and Contracted Professional Operators

- Are you a contract operator?
- Requires registration for all contract operators and contract operation companies.
- Seven requirements for minimum expectations for contracts with facilities must address:
 - Operation of the facility
 - Minimum staffing hours
 - Emergency operations
 - Maintenance (routine and preventative)
 - Ensuring the operators comply with the responsibilities of a professional operator in accordance with this chapter.
 - Sharing of correspondence from agency between both owner and contracted professional operator.
 - Conducting all sampling for the facility.

Contract Operator Rule

- Registration form and sample contract can be found on our website.

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert#183475243-contract-operators>

- The sample contract is a SAMPLE.
- Only one representative sample which meets the requirements of the rule.
- June 30th of each year a form will be required which identifies which plants a contract operator or operating company is operating.

Common Questions on New Rules

The collection/distribution system is under a different department. How do I handle reporting collection system visits as the plant ORC?

Does the ORC of the collection/distribution system have to be the one who makes the visits?

Our NPDES permit states we don't have to meet minimum staffing for collection systems. Does that mean we don't have to follow the new requirements?

Common Questions on New Rules

We have several ORCs who may be on duty during a single day. How do we enter that?

How do I account for times I leave the plant?

When are we required to start reporting our staffing?

Can you develop a separate form that we can use instead of reporting on the eDMR/eDWR?

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

EXAMS

2019 Paper/Pencil Exam Dates

	Wastewater and Water Examinations
Spring 2019	May 8, 2019 Application Deadline: February 7, 2019
Fall 2019	November 6, 2019 Application Deadline: August 8, 2019

Ohio EPA Paper/Pencil Exams

Offered 2 times per year

- Ohio Expo Center



Application to Ohio EPA

- Exam applications are accepted through eBusiness Center
- Fee dependent on level of examination
- Document experience in detail

Certificate Issuance

- Operator-in-Training (OIT) Applicants – must wait until required experience can be documented

Third Party Exams



Ohio EPA Testing Service

- Application (attestation)
- Immediate registration
- abccert.org/Ohio_EPA/certification_process.asp

Immediate results

30 day re-take waiting period

Re-take as many times as needed (offered year round)

Approved Exam Provider

- Association of Boards of Certification (ABC)
 - 9 locations
 - 3 hour test
 - 100 questions
 - Internationally recognized

ABC Test Locations



Third Party Exams

ABC Testing Service

Exam Fee \$46

Exam administration fee
\$66 (paid every time)

Total \$112



The above totals do not include the certification fee through Ohio EPA.

Applying for Certification

Submit only
after eligibility
requirements
can be
documented

Application for
Certification
through
eBusiness
Center

\$45 fee

Print, sign, and
mail paper
application

Third Party Exam Certification



Do I receive anything designating me as OIT?

Should I submit my results with the application?

What if I took the wrong exam?

Can I take an ABC exam outside the state?

Do the same experience credits apply?

Exam/Certification Applications



What is operating experience?

What degrees count towards experience credit?

What courses count towards experience credit?

What if I have over time?

What if I get promoted or my job duties change?

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

WEBSITE UPDATE



Re-organization of webpage

Increased emphasis on career opportunities and available resources.

Additional forms and resources added:

- EDWR, EDMR instructions.
- OIT, ORC, Staffing reductions and Reclassification forms all in one spot.

Website Update

Operator Contract Operators Training Provider Exam Information Advisory Council
Forms and Resources Career Information Contacts

Access to any services, lists or forms you may need as an operator, or to become an operator, can be found here. Use the [eBusiness Center](#), to submit a variety of applications, access your profile, update contact information and pay fees online.

NEW REQUIRED TRAINING: Starting Aug. 15, 2018, all applicants will need to review the [Operator Certification Required Training](#) document prior to submitting the Ohio EPA exam, third-party exam certification, reciprocity and renewal applications and Operator-in-Training forms.

- ▶ eBusiness Center
- ▶ Certification
- ▶ Operator-in-Training (OIT)
- ▶ Renewal
- ▶ Operator Lists
- ▶ Operator of Record

QUESTIONS?

Call the Operator Certification Hotline at 1-866-411-OPCT (6728) or [email us](#).

WANT TO RECEIVE UPDATES?

Subscribe to the [Operator Certification Mailing List](#)

DDAGW Site Links

Select an item and click "Go" to navigate
[Go](#)

Public **DRINKING WATER** Advisories

Public Water System **MONITORING SCHEDULES**

Website Update

- ▶ eBusiness Center
- ▶ Certification
- ▶ Operator-in-Training (OIT)
- ▼ Renewal
 - Ohio's certified operators are required to complete contact hour training to renew their certificates. Online renewals will become available on August 1 of your renewal year. It is your responsibility to [update your contact information](#) to ensure you receive all correspondence.
 - ▶ **NEW!** [Training Calendar](#) - Click here for information about upcoming approved contact hour training events.
 - ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions for eBusiness Center Renewals](#) (coming soon)
 - ▶ [Renewal Palm Card](#)
 - ▶ [Contact Hour Requirements](#)
 - ▶ Below is a complete list of approved courses separated for water and wastewater. All training dates must be scheduled to be considered approved. Please ensure with the provider that the date has been scheduled. Internet and correspondence courses are not scheduled.
 - ▶ [Water](#) (as of Aug. 13, 2018)
 - ▶ [Wastewater](#) (as of Aug. 13, 2018)
 - ▶ **Note:** As of April 21, 2017, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses approved through Ohio EPA DDAGW Central Office that were taken after April 21, 2017 will no longer be accepted for Operation & Maintenance (OM) hours. These courses will still be accepted for Other (X) hours. Please refer to the above lists for the new approval numbers for the associated courses.
 - ▶ [Internet and Correspondence providers](#) — To be added to the list, please contact the Operator Certification Unit at (614) 644-2752.
 - ▶ [Water Internet and Correspondence Courses](#)
 - ▶ [Wastewater Internet and Correspondence Courses](#)
 - ▶ [List of Approved Contact Hour Training Providers](#)
- ▶ Operator Lists
- ▶ Operator of Record

Website Update

New future
training calendar

New career
information tab

- Updated job boards.
- Improved veteran information and outreach.
- Provide links to apprenticeship, associate degrees and certification programs.

Website Update

[Operator](#) [Contract Operators](#) [Training Provider](#) [Exam Information](#) [Advisory Council](#)
[Forms and Resources](#) [Career Information](#) [Contacts](#)

[Water and Wastewater Operator Career Brochure](#)

JOB BOARDS

If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the Operator Certification Unit at (614) 644-2752.

- [Ohio Means Jobs](#)
- [Water Environment Federation \(WEF\)](#)
- [Operator Training Committee of Ohio \(OTCO\)](#)
- [Ohio Water Environment Association \(OWEA\)](#)
- [Ohio Section American Water Works Association \(OAWWA\)](#)
- [Ohio Rural Water Association \(ORWA\)](#)
- [American Water Works Association \(AWWA\)](#)

VETERANS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Veterans Affairs have joined forces to help prepare and employ veterans in civilian water and wastewater related careers. While serving in the military, many veterans obtain experience and credentials while assigned to Military Occupation Specialties (M.O.S.). There are several M.O.S. areas that are related to civilian positions within the water and wastewater sectors. The following link provides tips for hiring veterans, as well as M.O.S. that apply to drinking- and wastewater-related jobs.

- [From M.O.S. to J-O-B](#)
- [Palm Card](#)

Website Update

HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP, CAREER TECH, ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Apprenticeship programs:**
 - [City of Mason Water Reclamation Plant](#)
 - [Ohio Rural Water Association Coming Soon!](#)
 - [OTCO](#)
- **Career Tech programs:**

We currently don't have any programs in the state devoted to water and wastewater operations. If you're a representative considering a program, please contact us.
- **Associate's degrees:**
 - [Cincinnati State \(Cincinnati, OH\), Environmental Engineering Technology-Water and Wastewater Major](#)
 - [Columbus State Community College \(Columbus, OH\), Environmental Science, Safety, and Health AAS Program](#)
 - [Zane State College \(Zanesville, OH\), Environmental Science, Safety, and Health](#)
 - [Eastern Gateway Community College \(Steubenville, OH\), Environmental Science with Water and Wastewater \(AAS\)](#)
 - [Hocking College \(Nelsonville, OH\), Natural Resources in Water and Wastewater Management](#)
- **Other programs:**
 - [Columbus State Community College \(Columbus, OH\), Water/Wastewater Technology Certificate](#)

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTIONS

The following correctional facilities have active apprenticeship programs.

- [London Correctional Institute, London, OH](#)
- [Pickaway Correctional Institute, Orient, OH](#)
- [Ross Correctional Institute, Chillicothe, OH](#)

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS



Electronic Applications

Exam Applications

Third Party
Certification
Applications

Renewals
Applications

Reciprocity
Applications

Fee payments

Course Approval
Applications

Approved Contact
Hour Training
Provider
Applications

Renewal Applications

Electronic Renewals available August 1st

What courses are accessible on eBusiness?

- All courses are available
- Most attendance is uploaded
- Operators can upload their own course/contact hour information after August 1st of renewal year

Renewal Applications

2018 renewals must go through the eBusiness Center.

Easy to submit!
Almost 85% of all operators due to renew in 2018 have already been processed.

Contact Hours are already listed in your operator service.

Turn around time on renewal applications:

- About a week, if payment is made online.
- A few weeks, if payment is made via mail.
- Processing time significantly decreased.

Renewal Applications



Why don't see all my hours in my eBiz account?

Can I add contact hours to my list?

How do I add internet/correspondence course contact hours?











Will I know if I'm being audited?

How does an audit work through eBiz?

Renewal Applications

Exam Applications

Apply for New Exam



Type	Certification Type	Class	Status	Exam Date	Action
Ohio EPA (3)	Wastewater Treatment	1	APPROVED	05/05/2015	  
Third Party (47985)			EDIT		 
Third Party (47203)	Water Supply	2	DENIED	04/02/2017	
Ohio EPA (47945)	Water Supply		EDIT		 
Third Party (48404)	Water Supply	2	EDIT	08/01/2017	 

Current Certificates

Certificate Number	Type/Class	Issued	Renewal	Expires	Status	Action
WW4-1132459-17	Wastewater Treatment 4	01/16/1985	12/31/2017	12/31/2017	(renewal pending)	
WS4-1132459-18	Water Supply 4	01/01/2015	11/30/2017	12/31/2017	ACTIVE	 renew

Contact Hours

Apply for Contact Hours

Course Approval No.	Course Name	Approval Type	Training Provider	Date	Subject	Hours	Hours Available	Hours Applied	Status	Action
OEPA-888151970-OM	Ztest	Both	tp_user Training	06/01/2017	OM	1.0	0.0	1.0	EDIT	 

Fee Payments

What can you pay for on eBusiness right now?

- Exams
- Renewals
- Reciprocity
- Third Party Exam Certifications

Payment Types

- Credit Card, eChecks, Money Order/Paper Checks

Contact Information

Toll Free Hotline

1-866-411-OPCT (6728)

opcert@epa.ohio.gov

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx>

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

QUESTIONS