

Operator Certification Update

Effective 8/15/2019

OEPA Approval Number

OTCO-B13261-OM

Ohio Administrative Code

3745-7 Operator Certification

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Ask OTCO



- 1) Active Instruction
- 2) Expired Certificate
- 3) Operating Experience
- 4) Visit
- 5) Green Leaf Training Provider
- 6) Collection System Experience
- 7) Laboratory Experience
- 8) SCADA Experience
- 9) Pretreatment
- 10) Sludge Handling
- 11) On-Site Investigations and Inspections
- 12) Experience in Ensuring Compliance
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- 14) Professional Operator In Training (OIT)





OAC Definition

"Active instruction" means the time when a professional operator is receiving instruction. This **does not include**

- **break time** - **introductions** - **question & answer sessions**
(Q&A in excess of fifteen minutes)

A professional operator **shall not claim** hours on a renewal application other than those received in active instruction. ”

If you renew with contact hours in your OEPA Ebiz account that you were not in "Active Instruction"... Then you have committed a "Felony Fraudulent Act."





OAC Definition

"Expired certificate" means a certificate which has not been renewed by December thirty-first of the renewal year. An expired certificate may be renewed within ~~one year~~ six months of the expiration date in accordance with rule 3745-7-15 of the Administrative Code. ”

At 12:00 am July 1, 2019 the operator's certificate can not be renewed and must retake the operator exam(s) to become certified again.



OAC Definition

Operating Experience

*"Operating experience" means time performing the day-to-day activities necessary to ensure the proper performance **and operation** of the equipment or processes of a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage system. "*



OAC Definition

Visit

"Visit" means 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 (e.g. flow, chlorine residual, and pH measurements), maintenance, and or observation of a public water system, sewerage systems, or treatment works in order to ensure compliance and proper operation. "



OAC Definition

Green Leaf Training Provider

"Green leaf training provider" means a training provider that is approved by the director to issue trainer-specific contact hour course approval numbers. "

OTCO is a Green Leaf Training Provider



Collections Experience

Effective August 15, 2019

“...experience shall qualify as operating experience but may count for no more than twenty-five per cent of the operating experience requirement of each field”:

“Collection system experience when applying for a wastewater treatment examination or certificate.”



Laboratory Experience

Effective August 15, 2019

“...experience shall qualify as operating experience but may count for no more than twenty-five per cent of the operating experience requirement of each field”:

“Laboratory analyses if the analyses are conducted in the laboratory of the owner of a public water system, treatment works or sewerage system”

So.. You want to be a Class A, I, or II OEPA Professional Certified Operator and have 6, 12, or 36 months experience in a municipal water laboratory.....



Laboratory Experience

Effective August 15, 2019

One could take the Ohio EPA Class A, I, & II Operator Exam four (4) times between 5/15/19 and August 15, 2019:

- 1) 5/16/19 ABC/OEPA
- 2) 6/16/19 ABC/OEPA
- 3) 7/16/19 ABC/OEPA
- 4) 9/4/19 OEPA (Pen & Paper Exam. Registration Deadline: 8/8/19)



Pretreatment

Effective August 18, 2019

“...experience shall qualify as operating experience but may count for no more than twenty-five per cent of the operating experience requirement of each field”:

*“**Pretreatment**, if part of a treatment works or sewerage system, where pretreatment is the only job duty.”*



Sludge Handling Experience

Effective August 15, 2019

“...experience shall qualify as operating experience but may count for no more than twenty-five per cent of the operating experience requirement of each field”:

“Sludge handling or hauling, if part of a treatment works.”



SCADA Experience

Effective August 15, 2019

“...experience shall qualify as operating experience but may count for no more than twenty-five per cent of the operating experience requirement of each field”:

“On-site supervisory control and data acquisition (“SCADA”) systems monitoring.”



“Beginning one year after the effective date of this rule, types of experience related to a public water system, a treatment works, a water distribution system, or a sewerage system that qualify as operating experience include the following.”



OAC Definition

Effective August 15, 2019

Operating Experience

“On-site investigations and inspections
*of operations that require coordination of
work with active treatment processes,
collection, or distribution systems.”*



OAC Definition

Effective August 15, 2019

Operating Experience

“Experience in ensuring compliance with primary and secondary maximum contaminant levels, action levels and permit limits through the evaluation of facility process control parameters.”



Certified Professional Operators Required

- Owners of private sewerage systems **classified** by the director must provide an appropriately certified ORC.
- Owners of all public sewerage systems must provide an appropriately certified ORC.
- Contract must clearly define the responsibilities of the owner and the professional operator.
- Contracted professional operator shall perform their duties in accordance with the contract operator r11a



[3745-7-07 Professional Operator In Training](#)

- (A) Eligibility for professional operator in training status shall be limited to applicants for the [class A, I, or II](#) examination.
- (B) Eligibility requirements for examination and designation as a professional operator in training are the same as the prerequisites in rule [3745-7-06](#) of the Administrative Code, except that the director may waive the onsite operating experience requirement in public water systems, sewerage systems, or treatment works until after the applicant has successfully passed an examination.
- (C) A professional operator in training shall complete the operating experience requirement within [four years](#) of passing an examination for which the professional operator applied.
- (D) Upon successfully completing the actual onsite operating experience requirements of rule [3745-7-06](#) of the Administrative Code, the applicant shall submit an application to be certified by the director as a professional operator in the classification for which the professional operator applied, subject to [verification by the council](#).
- (E) Any person designated as a professional operator in training is **not** certified and **shall not** act as a professional operator of record.

