

Operator Training Committee of Ohio Water Workshop Certification Updates

March 8, 2016

Andrew Barienbrock

What's New in Operator Certification?

- eBusiness Center
 - Using for certification applications (exam, 3rd party, and reciprocity)
 - Beginning April 1, 2016 Contact hour providers are required to use for course applications. We encourage uploading attendance information.
- Reorganization
- Rule Making
- Exams
 - Third Party Exams
 - Paper/Pencil Exams

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

REORGANIZATION



Reorganization

- Separation from Funding and Engineering
- New focus on emergency response, preparedness and resiliency

Operations, Resiliency, and Certification Section

Andrew Barienbrock	Environmental Manager	
Dave Riley	Environmental Specialist 2	Reclassifications, Technical Assistance, Emergency Response and Sanitary Survey Auditing
Vacant	Environmental Specialist 2	Operator of Record notifications, Technical assistance, Sanitary Survey Auditing
Susan Wyatt	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>
Susan Parkins	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact Hours, Advisory Council, eBusiness and application processing
Jessica Dingman	Environmental Specialist 2	Contact hours, eBusiness, ACHTP Program, and application processing
Deidra Davis	Administrative Assistant	Operator Certification, Exams

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

RULE MAKING

Rule Making

- Division of Surface Water has changed the small systems general permits for facilities that meet certain criteria and are designed to handle <1,500 gallons per day
- 2016 All of the Operator Certification rules are due for review.

Rule Making (Continued)

- 2016 Proposals for change to the Current Operator Certification Rules.
 - Throughout the rules we will be referring to operators as “Professionals”
 - 3745-7-01 (Definitions)
 - Changes to the definition of operating experience
 - Moving laboratory, pretreatment and engineering components to experience which only counts for a maximum of 25% of the total operating experience requirement
 - Collection and Distribution experience moved to the same provision when an operator is applying for a Wastewater Treatment or Water Supply Certificate.

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-01 (Definitions)
 - Adding the definition of a “Week” – 7 day period beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday
- 3745-7-02 (Certified **professional** operators required)
 - 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 rule

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-04 (Treatment works and sewerage system classification and staffing requirements)
 - Collection System staffing requirements
 - Class 1 visits to the collection system 3 days per week
 - Class 2 visits to the collection system 5 days per week
 - Clarification of backup operator provisions for Class A and 1 facilities
 - Addition of a provision holding backup operators responsible for violations that occur while they are staffing a plant
 - Waiver of daily visit requirement with continuous monitoring
 - Minimum staffing reduction when facilities are less than 100 ft apart

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-05 (Classification of **professional** operator certification)
 - Moved limited Class A description here
 - Adding a chart showing superseding certificates
- 3745-7-06 (Certification of **professional** operators)
 - Provide minor clarifications to some paragraphs
 - Add a deadline for submittal of the Class IV exam

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-07 (**Professional** operator in training)
 - Clarify that OITs are not certified and cannot act as a **professional** operator of record
- 3745-7-09 (Recordkeeping requirements and responsibilities of a certified **professional** operator)
 - Operation and maintenance records must be maintained in hard bound books with consecutive page numbering or computer logs which automatically document the date, time and person making entry

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-09 (Recordkeeping requirements and responsibilities of a certified **professional** operator)
 - Each **professional** operator shall ensure the record keeping requirements are being met
 - Each **professional** operator of record shall ensure the minimum staffing requirements are met
 - Each **professional** operator shall display a copy of their certificate at the plant or office of the owner. (Moved from 3745-7-05

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-09 (Recordkeeping requirements and responsibilities of a certified **professional** operator)
 - Report minimum staffing times to the agency on a form approved by the Director

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-13 (Reciprocity)
 - Fee clarification
- 3745-7-15 (Expiration and renewal of **professional** operator certification)
 - Requirement for electronic submission of renewal applications beginning with certificates that expire December 31, 2018
 - Moving official due date for renewals to November 30 of the expiration year
 - Switching grace period from 1 year to 6 months

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-15 (Expiration and renewal of **professional operator certification**)
 - Within 30 days of the effective date of the rule all training providers will be required to electronically submit attendance documentation
 - Clarification that training providers must notify Ohio EPA of each training session
 - Allowance for a third party course approval program
 - Penalty provisions for not following course approval requirements

Rule Making (Continued)

- 3745-7-17 (**Professional** operator certification fees)
 - Clarification of fees for examination, certification, reciprocity and renewal
 - 3745-7-21 (Contract Operator Rule)
 - In development.
 - Require registration for all contract operators and contract operation companies
 - Spell out requirements for contract operations companies
 - Provisions for preventing companies or operators
- From acting as contract operators

Rules

- Rules that are here to stay
 - Minimum staffing
 - Log book requirements

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

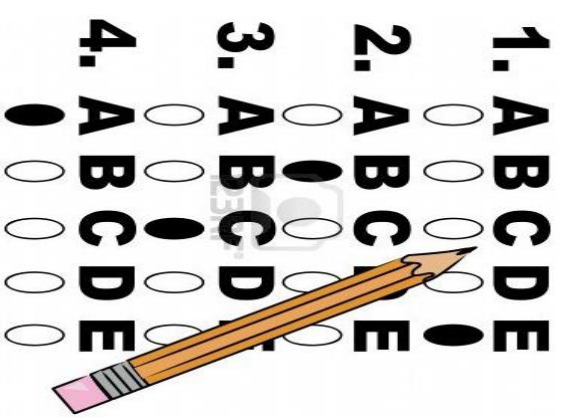
EXAMS

Third Party Exams

- Immediate results
- 30 day re-take waiting period
- Re-take as many times as needed
- Approved Exam Provider
 - Association of Boards of Certification (ABC)
 - 5 locations
 - 3 hour test
 - 100 questions
 - Internationally recognized

Third Party Exams

- Ohio EPA Testing Service Path
 - Application (attestation)
 - Immediate registration



Third Party Exams

- **Ohio EPA Testing Service Advantages**
 - EPA equivalent exam
 - Offered year round
 - 30 day re-take waiting period
 - Immediate results
 - Re-take as many times as needed

Approved Exam Provider Fees

- Ohio EPA Testing Service
 - Exam Fee \$46 (paid every time)
 - Exam administration fee \$64
 - Total \$110

Approved Examination Providers

Ohio EPA is pleased to announce alternative water and wastewater operator certification examinations, which are available more frequently and in more locations than Ohio EPA's traditional paper and pencil testing. The State of Ohio has approved the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) as an approved examination provider. Operators may now choose to take an ABC examination and then seek State of Ohio certification for all levels of certification except Class IV. ABC examinations will be offered in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo. Ohio EPA will continue to offer paper and pencil examinations in Columbus in the spring and fall of each year.

Applications for the traditional paper and pencil testing are available above. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the operator certification unit at 1-866-411-OPCT (6728) or by email. To find out more about the ABC certification program, please visit [ABC's Ohio Certification website](#).

- [Schedule an examination through ABC](#)
- [Application for certification through an approved exam provider](#) - To be completed by an operator who has passed an exam given by an approved examination provider (e.g., ABC)



Ohio EPA Certification

Ohio EPA Certification

- Certification Process
- Formula/Conversion Tables
- Study Guides
- Sample Exam Questions
- Need-to-Know Criteria

Certification Process



How to Become an Ohio EPA Certified Operator

ABC is an approved exam provider for Ohio EPA. As an approved exam provider, ABC offers computerized operator certification exams five-six days per a week at approximately 200 assessment center locations across the United States. Ohio EPA operator certification exams available through this program include:

- Water Supply, Classes A, I, II, and III
- Water Distribution, Classes I and II
- Wastewater Treatment, Classes A, I, II, and III
- Wastewater Collection, Classes I and II

Steps to obtain your Ohio EPA certification through this program are as follow:

1. Review the eligibility criteria below to determine whether you may sit for the exam. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, contact Ohio EPA at opccert@epa.state.oh.us or 1-866-411-OPCT (6728).

Eligibility Requirements

Classification	Education	Operating Experience
A	High school diploma or equivalent	1040 hours*
I	High school diploma or equivalent	12 months
II	High school diploma or equivalent	36 months*
III	High school diploma or	60 months, including 12 months

Classification	Education	Operating Experience
A	High school diploma or equivalent	1040 hours*
I	High school diploma or equivalent	12 months
II	High school diploma or equivalent	36 months*
III	High school diploma or equivalent	60 months, including 12 months as a Class II operator*

*Reductions available for education and course completion.
 Contact Ohio EPA at occert@epa.state.oh.us or 1-866-411-OPCT (6728) for details.

- If you meet the eligibility criteria, go to [AMP's website](#) to start registering for your examination.
 - Select the category: [Water/Wastewater](#).
 - Select the program: [Ohio EPA](#).
 - Select the appropriate examination.
 - During your registration for the examination, you will be required to attest to your eligibility and intent to apply for Ohio EPA certification.
 - Once you have passed your exam, submit your examination results, [Ohio EPA application for certification](#), and applicable fees to Ohio EPA.
- Application and Fees

Certification Fees	
ABC Approved Exam Provider Examination Fee	\$110.00 USD
Ohio EPA Application for Certification through an Approved Exam Provider	See Ohio EPA Website for current pricing



Candidate News

Click Here For Candidate News

Candidate Support Center

Hours
Monday - Thursday 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM Central Time
Friday 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Central Time
Saturday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Central Time

Contact
913.895.4600
Fax: 913.895.4650
[Contact AMP](#)

Everything you need is three steps away.



Technology That Works
People Who Care

Let us help you locate detailed information about your examination program! To find a candidate handbook, testing locations, fees and scheduling information, make a selection in each category below.

- 1 Water/Wastewater
- 2 Ohio EPA
- 3 Select an examination

Already have an account with us? [Login here](#)

Applying for Certification

- After passing the exam, Application for Certification through eBusiness Center
- \$45 fee
- Submit only after eligibility requirements can be documented
- Print, sign and mail paper application

Traditional Paper and Pencil Exams

- Offered 2 times per year
 - Ohio Expo Center
- Application to Ohio EPA
 - Fee dependent on level of examination
 - Documentation of experience in detail
 - **All exam applications must be submitted electronically through the eBusiness Center**
- Certificate Issuance
- Operator-in-Training (OIT) Applicants – must wait until required experience can be documented to submit an Operator in Training documentation form

2015 Paper/Pencil Exam Dates

	Wastewater Examinations	Water Examinations
Spring 2016	Examination Date: May 3, 2016	Examination Date: May 4, 2016
Fall 2016	Examination Date: November 9, 2016 Application Deadline: August 11, 2016	Examination Date: November 10, 2016 Application Deadline: August 12, 2016

All exam applications must be submitted electronically via the ebusiness center

Renewal Applications

- Over 5000 renewal applications mailed out in August
- Could renew via paper or electronically via the ebusiness center
- What courses are accessible on eBusiness?
 - All valid Ohio EPA courses
 - ACHTP
 - Operators can upload their own course/contact hour information

Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

QUESTIONS

Contact Information

Toll Free Hotline

1-866-411-OPCT (6728)

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