Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Operator Certification Update

December 4, 2018
Tanushree Courlas



What's New in Operator Certification?

New Rules

Exams

- Third Party Exams
- Paper/Pencil Exams

Website Changes

Certification Renewals

Contact Information

Questions





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
Chad Wenger	Environmental Specialist 2	Security, Contingency Planning, Emergency Response Planning, Operator Notifications and Enforcement
Tanushree Courlas	Environmental Supervisor	Operator Certification
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	Proposed Changes
Various	Operators will be referred to as Professional Operators
3745-07-01	Laboratory, Pretreatment, and Engineering Experience restrictions Only if the experience is solely in these types of positions.
	Collection and Distribution Experience restrictions Only if applying for a treatment certificate.
	Adding the definition of "Week" "Week" – Sunday to Saturday
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	Proposed Changes
3745-07-04	Collection System staffing requirements Class 1 – 3 days, Class 2 – 5 days 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."
	Clarification of backup operator provisions
	Backup operators are responsible for violations
	Reduction for minimum staffing New provisions to assist with facilities which have flex work schedules.



Rule	Proposed Changes
3745-07-06	Minor clarifications in rule
	Add deadline for submittal of Class IV examination 2 years from the date of approval
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 Report in your eDMR starting with your November submission. The agency is working on a different method. Log book is still the official record.
3745-07-13	Fee clarification on Reciprocity applications



Rule	Proposed 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 It is a PDF on our website which covers new rules and policies
3745-07-17	Clarification of fees for examination, certification, reciprocity and renewal



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 <u>http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert#183475243</u> <u>-contract-operators</u>
- The sample contract is a SAMPLE.
- Do not send in multiple contracts, only a representative sample which meets the requirements of the rule.
- June 30th of each year a form will be required which identifies what plants a contract operator or operating company is operating.

Protection Agency

Common Questions on New Rules

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

Does the ORC of the collection 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?



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EXAMS



2018 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





Protection Agency

- 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



30 day re-take waiting period

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

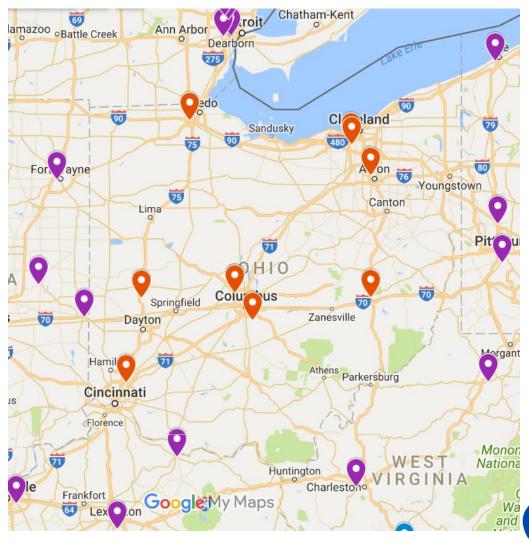
Approved Exam Provider

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





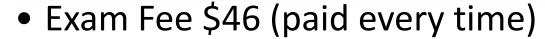
ABC Test Locations



Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Third Party Exams

ABC Testing Service



- Exam administration fee \$66
- 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?



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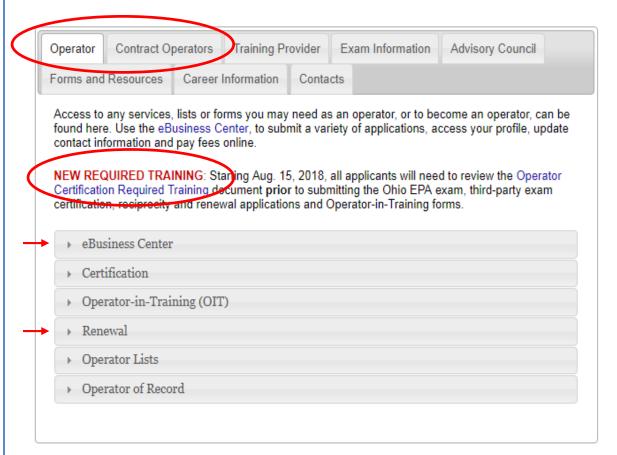
WEBSITE UPDATE



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.

Protection Agency



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







New future training calendar

New career information tab

- Updated job boards.
- Improved veteran information and outreach.

Protection Agency

 Provide links to apprenticeship, associate degrees and certification programs.

- 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 or 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



Operator C	Contract Ope	erators	Training Pr	ovider	Exam Information	Advisory Council
orms and Re	esources	Career I	Information	Conta	cts	
Water and W	astewater C	Operator (Career Broch	nure		
JOB BOARI	DS					
If you would I 2752.	like to be ad	ded to th	nis list, please	contact	t the Operator Certific	ation Unit at (614) 644-
Ohio Mear	ns Jobs					
 Ohio Mear 	ns Jobs vironment Fe	ederation	(WEF)			
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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



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



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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



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 <u>after August 1st</u> of renewal year



2018 renewals must go through the eBusiness Center.

Easy to submit! Almost 60% of all operators due to renew in 2018 have already been processed.

Contact Hours 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.





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

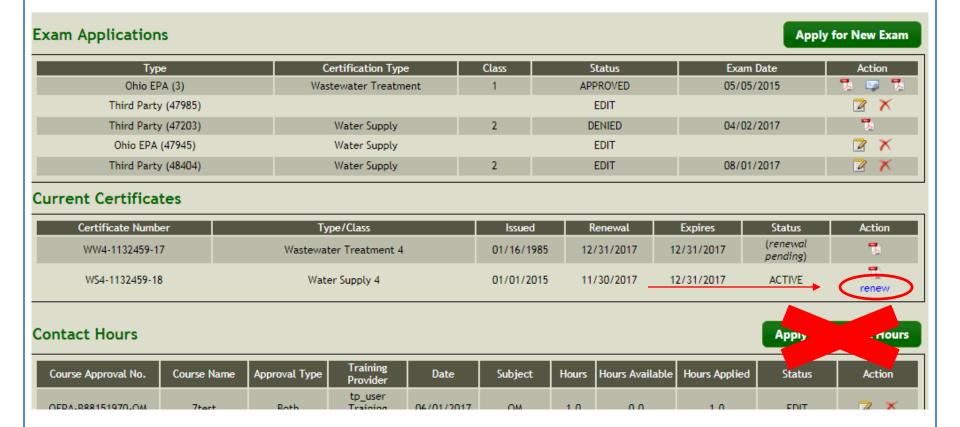
Can I add contact hours to my list?

How do I add internet/correspondence course contact hours?

Will I know if I'm being audited?

How does an audit work through eBiz?







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



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QUESTIONS

