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

NEW!

Certification Renewals

Contact Information

Questions

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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

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Ohio EPA Operator Certification Update

RULE MAKING

Rule Changes

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

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Rule Changes

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.*

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Rule Changes

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

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Rule Changes

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

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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.

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Contract Operator Rule

- Registration form and sample contract can be found http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert#183475243-contract-operators

- 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.

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?

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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

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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

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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

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ABC Test Locations

Third Party Exams

ABC Testing Service

- Exam Fee $46 (paid every time)
- Exam administration fee $66
- Total $112

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

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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 |

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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?

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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

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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.

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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

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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.

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Website Update

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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

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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

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Renewal Applications

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.

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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?

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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 ~~Hours~~

Course Approval No.	Course Name	Approval Type	Training Provider	Date	Subject	Hours	Hours Available	Hours Applied	Status	Action
OEPA-B88151970-OM	7test	Both	tp_user Training	06/01/2017	OM	1.0	0.0	1.0	EDIT	📝 ✖

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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

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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