

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RULES
BOARD OF HEALTH

Chapter 16-1
Series IV
(1983)

Public Water Supply Operators

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Subject: Public Water Supply Operators

Section 1. General

1.1. Scope - These legislative rules establish the examination and certification of operators of public water supplies.

1.2. Authority - These legislative rules are issued under the authority of and are related to Chapter 16, Article 1, Section 7 of the West Virginia Code of 1931, as amended.

1.3. Filing Date - These legislative rules were filed on the 30th day of September 1974, in the Secretary of State's office.

1.4. Effective Date - These legislative rules became effective on the first day of November 1974.

1.5. Refiling Date - These legislative rules were refiled pursuant to Chapter 29A, Article 2, Section 5 of the West Virginia Code of 1931, as amended on the 30th day of December 1982 in the Secretary of State's office.

Section 2. Application and Enforcement

2.1. Application - These legislative rules apply to all persons seeking or holding certification as an operator of a public water supply system.

2.2. Enforcement - The enforcement of these legislative rules is vested with the director of the West Virginia department of health or his lawful designee.

Section 3. Definitions

3.1. Division of Sanitary Engineering - As used in this regulation is the division of sanitary engineering, state department of health.

3.2. Person - Individual, city, town, public service district, partnership, association, company, corporation, government corporation, institution, department, division, bureau, agency, or any other entity recognized by law.

3.3. Public Water Supply - Any water supply or system subject to regulation and control of the public service commission of this state, or which supplies or offers to supply water to the general public.

3.4. Public Water Supply System - Includes the works and auxiliaries for the collection, treatment, storage and distribution of the water from the source of supply to the ultimate customer.

3.5. Public Water Supply Treatment Plant - Facilities provided for the treatment of water, by any one or any combination of the controlled processes of coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, disinfection or other processes which produce a water consistently meeting the requirements of the state department of health.

3.6. Certificate - A written document issued by the division of sanitary engineering giving a designated person permission to operate a specific class of public water supply or system upon successful completion of the education, experience and examination requirements contained in these regulations.

3.7. Operator in Training - An individual who meets the education requirements and is in the process of completing the experience requirements for Class I certification.

3.8. Operator - A person who has been granted a certificate by the division of sanitary engineering to operate a specific class of public water supply or system.

3.9. Certified Operator - An operator holding a certificate granted by the division of sanitary engineering of a class at least equal to that required by the water treatment plant classification where he is employed.

3.10. On Site Responsibility - The responsibility of a certified operator to be present at the treatment plant while the plant is in operation.

Section 4. Classification of Public Water Supplies

4.1. Public water supplies shall be classified on the basis of complexity of treatment plants and for the total population served.

4.1.1. The system of classification for treatment plants shall be based on a total point rating as computed by the point system classification shown in sub-section 4.1.2 of these regulations.

POINT SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION
 OF WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>POINT RATING SYSTEM</u>	<u>POINTS RATED</u>
<u>Size</u>		
Maximum population served	1 per 12,500 or part thereof	_____
Design flow (average day) or peak month's production (average day), whichever larger.....	1 per 1.25 MGD or part thereof	_____
<u>Water Supply Source</u>		
Groundwater.....	3 (each source)	_____
Surface water.....	10 (each source)	_____
<u>Elementary Treatment</u>		
Aeration for CO ₂	2	_____
pH adjustment.....	4	_____
Corrosion control.....	1 - 8	_____
Taste and odor control.....	1 - 8	_____
Color control.....	4	_____
Activated carbon feed.....	4	_____
<u>Advanced Treatment</u>		
Iron or Iron/Manganese removal.....	5 - 10	_____
Softening.....	5 - 10	_____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>POINT RATING SYSTEM</u>	<u>POINTS RATED</u>
Coagulation (10) flocculation (5) sedimentation (5)	20 (maximum)	_____
Filtration.....	10 - 15	_____
Exotic processes (Rev. osmosis, electro dialysis, etc.)	20	_____
<u>In-Plant treatment of plant sludge.....</u>	6	_____
<u>Fluoridation.....</u>	5	_____
<u>Disinfection</u> Pre (5) Post (5).....	10 (maximum)	_____
<u>On-site generation of disinfectant.....</u>	5	_____
<u>Laboratory Control by Plant Personnel</u>		
Bacteriological (complexity).....	1 - 10	_____
Chemical/Physical (complexity).....	1 - 10	_____
Others (as determined by Division of Sanitary Engineering).....		_____
TOTAL POINT RATING.....		_____

4.2 Classification of public water supplies shall be based on the following table:

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM ¹				
Basis of Classification	Classes			
	I	II	III	IV ²
Treatment Plant Total Point Rating	0 to 25	26 to 50	51 to 75	76 or more
Population Served	0 to 1,500	1501 to 15,000	15,001 to 50,000	50,001 or more

¹ If the ranges of total point rating and population differ from those contained in the table, the division of sanitary engineering shall determine the appropriate public water classification.

² All Class IV public water supplies must have bacteriological laboratories certified by the state hygienic laboratory.

Section 5. Certification of Water Plant Operators

5.1. All persons operating a public water supply or system in this state shall be certified by the division of sanitary engineering in accordance with these regulations.

5.2. On and after November 1, 1974, the date these regulations become effective, it shall be illegal for any person to operate, or to be in charge of operation of a public water supply or system unless said person possesses an operator's certificate issued by the division of sanitary engineering.

5.3. Anyone who has on-site responsibility for a public water supply or system shall be a certified operator.

5.4. Certification of operators shall be based upon education, experience, and satisfactory completion of a written examination given by the division of sanitary engineering. All certificates shall be prominently displayed at the water treatment plant where the operator is employed.

Section 6. Requirements for Certification of Water Plant Operators

6.1. Operators possessing certificates before the effective date of these regulations will be issued new certificates by the division of sanitary engineering in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Existing Certification</u>	<u>New Certification</u>
OIT (Operator in Training)	OIT
III	I
II	II
I	III or IV (See Section 6.3)

6.2. Operators who, up until the effective date of these regulations, were certified as Class II-R or I-R shall be re-certified on the basis of their

education and experience as determined by the division of sanitary engineering.

6.3. Operators who were certified as Class I operators before the effective date of these regulations and were employed full time at a Class IV public water supply, as defined in these regulations, shall be entitled to Class IV re-certification. All such operators shall submit their request for re-certification in writing to the division of sanitary engineering for approval.

6.4. Those persons not now certified, and who desire certification after the effective date of these regulations, will be classified in accordance with education - experience requirements under Section 8 and examination requirements under Section 10 of these regulations.

Section 7. Operator in Training (OIT)

7.1. A certificate of this class is limited to new personnel without any prior experience.

7.2. Written application for an operator in training certificate shall be made to the division of sanitary engineering on a form provided by the division, within one month after employment as an operator in training.

7.3. Operators under the OIT certificate must be under the supervision of a certified operator.

7.4. Operator in training certificates shall be valid for one year. The individual will be considered for recertification if he makes written application for same to the division of sanitary engineering thirty days prior to certificate expiration.

Section 8. Qualifications for Certification

8.1. Class I - High school diploma or equivalent and one year of

operating experience at a water treatment plant as an operator in training.

8.2. Class II - High school diploma or equivalent and three years operating experience in a Class I, II, III, or IV water treatment plant.

8.3. Class III - Fourteen years of education or equivalent and five years operating experience in a Class II, III or IV water treatment plant.

8.4. Class IV - Sixteen years of education or equivalent and six years operating experience in a Class III or IV water treatment plant.

Section 9. Education - Experience Credits

9.1. Twelve years of education means high school diploma, G.E.D., or other equivalent. Thirty college semester hours shall equal 45 quarter hours and either shall equal one year college credit.

9.2. Experience, at the next certification level below that applied for, may be substituted on a year for year basis for the educational requirements beyond the high school level through the fourteenth year. However, any experience used as a substitute for the educational requirements cannot also be credited toward satisfying experience requirements.

9.3. Education, above the high school level, may be substituted on a year for year basis for experience requirements in Classes II, III and IV only. However, any education used as a substitute for the experience requirements cannot also be credited toward satisfying education requirements.

9.4. A maximum of six months educational credit may be permitted by the division of sanitary engineering if an applicant has successfully completed an approved water plant operators training or correspondence course. Written proof of course completion and a request for approval of credit must be submitted in writing to the division of sanitary engineering with the

application for examination.

Section 10. Application for Examination and Certification

10.1. Those persons not certified as of the effective date of these regulations, may make a request for examination to the division of sanitary engineering at least thirty days prior to the examination date by completing a form furnished by the division of sanitary engineering or county health department.

10.2. Written examinations for certification will be arranged by the division of sanitary engineering for those persons who meet the educational requirements. The times and places for the examination will be designated by the division of sanitary engineering which shall notify the applicants of same at least two weeks before the examination date.

10.3. An applicant's certification status shall be determined by his examination grade, educational and experience background. To pass the examination an applicant must make a minimum grade of 70 percent. An applicant who fails an examination must wait a minimum of sixty days before applying for re-examination.

Section 11. Revocation of Certificates

11.1. The division of sanitary engineering may revoke the certificate of any person who fraudulently obtains a certificate or for neglect, incompetency, or misconduct in the performance of the duties as an operator of a public water supply system including non-compliance with Chapter 1, Article 5, of the environmental health regulations which relates to public water supply control tests bacteriological quality sampling and operating records. The division of sanitary engineering may reinstate any person whose certificate has been revoked upon presentation of satisfactory evidence to the

division that all deficiencies have been corrected.

11.2. The division of sanitary engineering may revoke a certificate for cause and require a certificate holder to take another written examination at his last certification class if he has not been actively engaged in water supply treatment operation for a two-year period.

11.3. An operator employed at a public water supply shall notify the division of sanitary engineering at least thirty (30) days prior to terminating his employment. Failure to notify the division of sanitary engineering shall be cause for automatic certificate revocation; however, automatic revocation shall not occur if the operator has been discharged by his supervisor.

Section 12. Reciprocity - The division of sanitary engineering shall consider for West Virginia certification, the holder of a certificate issued by a governmental agency or another state upon presentation to the division of sanitary engineering satisfactory evidence of the following:

12.1. The applicant has been offered and agrees to accept full time employment as a certified public water supply system operator in West Virginia.

12.2. The applicant has successfully passed a certification examination at least equivalent to that which is required under this regulation.

Section 13. Repeal of Former Regulations - All regulations previously adopted by the West Virginia board of health which are in conflict with the provisions of these regulations are hereby repealed.

Section 14. Severability - Each section of this regulation and every part of each section is an independent section and a part of a section, and the holding of any section or part thereof to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause does not affect the validity or constitutionality of

any other section or part thereof.

Section 15. Penalties - Any person who violates any provision of these regulations or any regulation adopted by the West Virginia board of health pursuant to the authority granted by these regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than \$200.00 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days or both fine and imprisonment as provided in Chapter 16, Article 1, Section 20, of the Public Health Laws of West Virginia, West Virginia Code. Each day's failure to comply with any applicable provision of these regulations shall constitute a separate offense.

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RULES
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Waste Water Treatment Works Operator

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Series V
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