

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM CHANGES OPERATOR CERTIFICATION FEES

On September 20, 2011 Governor Snyder signed House Bills 447 and 448 into law. These became Public Act (P.A.) 147 and P.A. 148 and had an effective date of September 21, 2011. These bills contain specific details with regards to the new Operator Training and Certification Program fee package. The primary change is that a law was put in place to collect fees for the program services offered by the Operator Training and Certification Unit (OTCU)

What does this mean?

P.A. 147 and P.A. 148 allow the OTCU to collect fees for operator certification exams, operator certification renewals, operator training and Continuing Education Credit (CEC) provider course approval applications and course renewals.

Why are there fees?

The reason Operator Training and Certification fee legislation was put forth is that funding for some of the OTCU programs has been eliminated. The fee legislation will allow the OTCU to continue offering certification exams, renewals and Advisory Board approved training for continuing education credit.

Who will be affected by fees?

- Industrial Wastewater Operators (IWW)
- Storm Water Construction Operators (SWC)
- Storm Water Industrial (SWI)
- Municipal Wastewater Operators (MWW)
- Drinking Water Operators (DW)
- CEC Providers

How much are the fees?

Examinations

- Drinking Water Operators
 - Levels 1, 2, 3 or 4 - \$70.00 per exam
 - Level 5 - \$45.00 per exam
- Municipal Wastewater Operators
 - Levels A, B, C or D - \$70.00 per exam
 - L1, L2 or SC - \$45.00 per exam
- Industrial Wastewater Operators
 - Level 1 or 2 - \$35.00 per exam
 - Level 3 - \$40.00 per exam
 - Special classification A-1a, noncontact cooling water A-1h or Storm Water Industrial A-1i - \$30.00 per exam

Certification Renewals - \$95 for all certifications issued on a single certificate

- 3 year renewal cycle
 - Drinking Water certifications
 - Municipal wastewater certifications
- 5 year renewal cycle
 - Industrial Wastewater
 - Storm water Industrial and Construction

CEC Providers - \$75 per course for all new course approvals

- 3 year course renewal cycle
 - Course renewals are \$50 for each course renewed

What if I apply to write two exams?

Individuals will be charged for all exams applied for. For example, if an individual applies to write the S-3 (\$70) and D-3 (\$70) drinking water certification exam, the fee would be \$140 for a total of two exams. Individuals denied eligibility to write certification exams will be expected to pay the examination fee for each exam applied for. **Be very specific in what you apply for, there are no refunds for denials, cancellations or no shows.**

What if I have a DW certificate, MWW certificate and IWW certificate, do I have to pay for three renewals?

Yes. One fee will be charged for all certifications issued on a single certificate. For example an operator holding a Municipal Wastewater B, Drinking Water F3, S2 and Industrial Wastewater A-1a, A-1h would be charged one fee for each certificate they receive – there would be one \$95 fee for the Municipal Wastewater certificate that listed Levels B, C, D. There would be one \$95 fee for the DW Certificate that listed F3, S2 and an additional one \$95 fee for the Industrial Wastewater Certificate that listed A-1a, A-1h.

Storm water certifications are also on separate certificates.

When do fees take affect?

The legislation was effective 9/21/2011, **however** the OTCU plans to adopt a phased in approach to fee collection. **NO FEES WILL BE COLLECTED FOR THE NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER 2011 EXAMS.**

Please make sure your home address is up to date with OTCU. Watch the OTCU webpage for updated information, exam applications, renewal applications and Education and Training Programs CEC Approval/Renewal applications – www.michigan.gov/degoperatortraining

Where did the fee amounts come from?

Stakeholders groups met in 2009 and gave input as to the amount and structure of the fee contained in the fee package. Fees charged in other states for Operator Certification as well as fees charged in Michigan for other professional licenses were evaluated.

What happens if I don't pay my exam fee?

In order to have results of an exam recorded your exam fee must be paid. If an examinee fails to pay his/her exam fee the results will be recorded as a fail and the delinquent amount will be referred to Treasury for collection. In addition, those that fail to pay their exam fee will not be allowed to write an examination in the same program until restitution has been made with the State.

What happens if I don't pay my renewal fee?

If an operator fails to renew their certification complete with fee and CECs (if required) the certification will expire and the operator will no longer be able to act as an operator in charge or shift operator.

Links to the Legislative website where the P.A. 147 and P.A. 148 are located:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(swxkjj45ucqrc3vkkn5ujxbh\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2011-SB-0447](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(swxkjj45ucqrc3vkkn5ujxbh))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2011-SB-0447)

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(swxkjj45ucqrc3vkkn5ujxbh\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2011-SB-0448](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(swxkjj45ucqrc3vkkn5ujxbh))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2011-SB-0448)