

SECTION 3.3 - WATERWORKS OPERATOR CERTIFICATIONS

INTRODUCTION:

The Environmental Science and Services Division (ESSD) and the Water Bureau (WB), within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), have responsibility for certification of waterworks operators. Drinking water operators in charge of a water treatment or water distribution system, back-up operators, and shift operators must be certified for the protection of public health.

A. NAME OF APPROVAL:

Certification for Community and Noncommunity Drinking Water Operators

B. STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Safe Drinking Water Act, Public Act 399 of 1976, as amended (November 6, 1991)

C. APPLICABLE REGULATION:

Administrative Rules, Part 19 (for Waterworks Operators)

D. SUMMARY OF APPROVAL PROCESS:

1. Applicability

All waterworks operators involved in the treatment and distribution of community or noncommunity water treatment or water distribution systems.

2. General Requirements

The MDEQ, in concurrence with a nine-member advisory board, schedules all written exams at least once a year (notice must be at least 90 days before exam).

Applicants from community water systems must apply at least 45 days prior to an exam. Applicants from noncommunity water systems must apply at least 20 days prior to an exam.

Applicant must possess and indicate a minimum level of education and experience for eligibility to write a particular exam.

Applicant must be notified of eligibility to write at least 15 days prior to exam. Pass/fail results may be publicly published.

Certificate is valid for three years and may be renewed provided the required continuing education has been obtained.

3. Submission Requirements

- Formal application
- Educational background
- Work experience

4. Procedures for Obtaining Certificate

An operator desiring certification submits an application (Distribution Certification EQP 3421; Limited Treatment Certification EQP 3422; Water Filtration/Complete Filtration EQP 3423; Level 5 Certification EQP 3442) to the ESSD, Operator Training and Certification Unit. The application is scored by an ESSD or WB staff member who considers applicant's education and experience. A passing grade of 60 percent is required on Level 1 and 2 exams. A passing grade of 70 percent is required on Level 3, 4, and 5 exams.

5. Operations Requirements

Certified operator must comply with all applicable rules and regulations. Certifications must be renewed every three years using the application for renewal (EQP 3440).

6. Fees

None

7. Appeal Process

Formal appeal from an operator may be made in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Public Act 306 of 1969, as amended.

8. Public Input Opportunities

This program is a personal licensure program. The Board of Examiners for Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution Operators recommends certification of qualified applicants to the Director of the MDEQ, who issues certificates. The Board meetings are open to the public and timeframes for meetings are identified on the web. Pass/fail result rates may be publicly published.

E. ADMINISTERING AGENCY FOR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION:

Environmental Science and Services Division
Operator Training and Certification Unit
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, MI 48909-7957
517-241-7199