

3.27 WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEM OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

Information on Becoming a Water or Wastewater Certified Operator or Superintendent

Why do I need to be certified?

This certification helps to protect public health and the environment by setting minimum education, experience, and examination standards that applicants must satisfy. It is required for operators and/or superintendents of water treatment plants, water distribution systems, wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems, certain pretreatment facilities that discharge to sanitary sewers, or industrial wastewater facilities.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

STATE: Environment Article, Title 12; COMAR 26.06.01.

What is the process to get this approval?

- 1) Submit completed application form for a certificate and the application fee to the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators.
- 2) Pass necessary certification examination(s).
- 3) Complete experience and education requirements.
- 4) Submit a completed application for full certification and the application fee to the Board.

APPLICATIONS & OTHER INFO

[Application for a Temporary Certificate](#)
(Form MDE/WMA/BWW/TMP)

[Application for Operator Certification](#)
(Form MDE/WMA/BWW/OPR)

[Application for Operator Examination](#)
(Form MDE/WMA/BWW/EXM)

[Application for Superintendent Certificate](#)
(Form MDE/WMA/BWW/SUP)

[Application for Reciprocity Certificate](#)
(Form MDE/WMA/BWW/REC)

[Application for Training Approval](#)

Please call (410)537-3167 or email wwso.board@maryland.gov to request a **Reinstatement or Renewal Application**. When contacting the Board, have your certification number ready.

Are there any other requirements?

PRE- APPROVAL: A minimum of a high school education and six months to three years of related work experience (varies according to the specific work certification) and passing the appropriate written examination.

POST-APPROVAL: The triennial renewal requires completion of a specified number of hours of Board-approved training (see COMAR 26.06.01.13). The Department should be contacted for the details.

How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

Type of Certificate	Turnaround Time
New certificates	45 days
Renewal certificates	30 days

Once I get this approval, how long will it last? Maximum of three years

How much will this approval cost?

Type of Fee	Fee
Examination	\$50
Application fee for a temporary, operator or superintendent certificate	\$50
Renewal for the first certificate	\$50
Renewal fee for each additional certification category	\$50 each with a cap of \$100 during any 3 year renewal

Do I need to know any additional information?

Exams are given monthly. Examination applications must be submitted at least three weeks before the date of the examination.

Am I eligible for Reciprocity?

- 1.) You must be employed at a facility in Maryland or have employment pending the issuance of your Maryland Certification before applying.
- 2.) Your experience & current certification from the previous state of employment must match the treatment process that you will be working with in Maryland.
- 3.) For further information about what is required to submit a Reciprocity request, please see the 3rd page of the Reciprocity Application.

Who do I contact with additional questions?

MDE Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators (410) 537-3167 or wwso.board@maryland.gov