

## 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](#)

**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). There are additional education, experience, and examination requirements for superintendent certification. 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.

**Who do I contact with additional questions?**

MDE Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators (410) 537-3167