



Operator Certification Examinations for Wastewater Systems

Collection and Treatment System Supervisors and All Operating Personnel

Computer-Based Testing Now Available

An option to the DEQ-scheduled spring and fall examinations is year round open schedule testing for a fee of \$100, payable in addition to the application fee and exam or re-exam fee. All open scheduled tests are now computer-based with scoring available immediately at the end of the test session. No waiting weeks for results. Tests are administered Monday to Saturday at several locations around Oregon and over 170 sites nationwide.

Proof of Education is Required

If not submitted previously to DEQ, you must attach evidence to your application that you have met the education requirements for the certificate sought. Examples of documentation include a copy of your High School Diploma or GED certificate, transcripts or degree, and letters or certificates of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or equivalent training contact hours.

Certification Required

Oregon Law (ORS 448.415) requires wastewater systems (sewage treatment works) to be operated or supervised by qualified persons to avoid a threat to public health and the environment. This includes the collection of domestic wastewater (i.e., sewage) and its treatment by either public or privately owned systems. Qualification is demonstrated by requiring operators to obtain the right type and level of certificate.

Persons not certified are prohibited from performing the duties of an operator unless system operation is supervised by a properly certified operator. Most very small subsurface systems are exempt from operator certificate requirements. DEQ classifies collection and treatment systems at one of four levels based upon their size and complexity. The supervising operator's certificate level (Grade I-IV) must be no less than the corresponding system classification level (Class I-IV).

Certification is available to all who meet the minimum qualifications outlined in Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 340, Division 049. Qualifications include an appropriate blend of education, training, and acceptable operator experience, plus knowledge proved by passing an examination. DEQ offers several exams; four levels each (I-IV), for collection system and treatment system operation. Continuing education is required for certificate renewal.

2012 Exam Schedule		
Wastewater Collection and Treatment		
Non-computer tests only		
Date	Location	App. Deadline
Friday, March 30	Statewide*	January 16
*Albany, Bend, Medford, Ontario, Oregon City, Roseburg		

No **September 2011** paper/pencil exam will be given. Computer-based exams are available year-round (“Open Schedule”), **including September**.

Application Submittal and Deadlines

Applications for **March** non-computer, paper/pencil testing must be postmarked no later than January 16, 2012. Applications for year-round computer-based testing need to be postmarked 30 days prior to the desired testing date. In either case, a **late or incomplete application may be returned or held in suspense until complete**.

A complete application includes:

- Education and/or training documentation
- Detailed operator experience information
- System supervisor affidavit or applicant's experience
- Payment of fees (Application fee is non-refundable)

Have questions? Need help?

Call us at (503) 229-5161
Toll free in Oregon: (800) 452-4011
TTY: (800) 735-2900
Fax: (503) 229-6957
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Certificate application forms, requirements, exam and training information may be obtained online at:

www.deq.state.or.us/wq/opcirt/opcirt.htm

Send all **written** comments to:

DEQ, Operator Certification
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