

**SUSPENSION OF EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER REGULATIONS OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE AGENCIES §§ 22a-416-1 to 22a-416-10  
DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

Pursuant to the authority granted by Governor Ned Lamont’s Executive Order 7JJ, dated May 6, 2020, issued in furtherance of his public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the extension of said executive order by Executive Order 9A issued on September 8, 2020, and the subsequent extension by Executive Order 9L issued on November 9, 2020, I am suspending the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for the in-person examination of applicants for wastewater operator certifications found in section 22a-416 of the Connecticut General Statutes and sections 22a-416-1 to 22a-416-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. This order shall continue in full effect for as long as Executive Order 7JJ, as extended, remains in effect unless either earlier modified or terminated by me.

Currently, the cited regulations of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP” or “Department”), require me to post notice of a specific exam date and require applications for that specific exam date. The exam is held at limited sites throughout the state requiring larger gathering of individuals admitted to take the exam. In order to address the concerns surrounding large gatherings of individuals and promote required social distancing during the duration of the public health emergency, I am authorizing examinees to take the exam at professional testing centers on dates and at times available for testing at these locations.

The use of professional testing centers will ensure the integrity of the examination and also provide needed flexibility to those admitted to take the exam given unknowns surrounding work and school schedules due to the COVID-19 emergency. I am also cognizant of the impact of the COVID-19 health threat on the public and agency personnel, and the restrictions imposed consistent with the Governor’s declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies. As result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the July exam offering was canceled. Proper certification of individuals that would have taken effect over the summer is necessary for permit holders to comply with operational requirements imposed by statute and regulation as well as for qualified individuals to gain employment in a job class critical to the health and well-being of the citizens of this state. I consider this suspension of existing exam requirements necessary to support the Department’s mission to protect human health and the environment while protecting its staff and those qualified and prepared to take the appropriate certification exam in a time of a declared health emergency.

DEEP staff will publish a detailed description of the temporary procedures for examination on its internet website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Municipal-Wastewater/Operator-Certification-for-Municipal-Wastewater-Treatment-Facilities>.

This action in no way impacts or suspends the requirements of wastewater operators to be properly certified to conduct activities requiring certification or the requirement that wastewater treatment facilities ensure properly certified staff are operating the facility in accordance with the terms and conditions of any license or permit.

Executed this 10th day of November, 2020.



Katherine S. Dykes  
Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection