

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch

### DWS Circular Letter #2021-14

**TO:** Certified Operators of Public Water Systems  
Community and Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Systems  
Gateway Community College, Goodwin College  
Approved Training Providers for Water Operators

**FROM:** Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief

**DATE:** March 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Remote Administration for Water Operator Certification Exams

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide information on the Commissioner of Public Health Department's December 24, 2020 order (see attached) regarding DPH prescribed examinations and designated remote administration for the water operator certification exams. In response to the COVID-19 public health crisis the Drinking Water Section (DWS) cancelled the spring and fall 2020 water operator certification examinations.

To facilitate water operator certification needs (Water Treatment Plant, Distribution System, Small Water System Operator and Operator-in-Training (OIT)), the DWS will utilize the below specified Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) 2017 Standardized Examinations administered at ABC's contracted test administrator locations (PSI). This use of ABC 2017 Standardized examinations at PSI test centers will continue for the duration of the Governor's declared public health and civil preparedness emergency or unless sooner modified or terminated by the Commissioner of the CT DPH. The current state of emergency is to remain in effect until April 20, 2021, per Governor's Executive Order signed on January 26, 2021.

A web link to the description of the ABC specified examination per the CT DPH water operator certification type and class level is provided below:

CT DPH Water Operator Certification Type & Class level ("Full" or OIT Certification *)	ABC 2017 Standardized Examination Guide (aka "Need to Know Criteria")
<b>Water Treatment Plant Operator Class I *</b>	<a href="#">ABC Water Treatment Operator Class I</a>
Class II *	<a href="#">ABC Water Treatment Operator Class II</a>
Class III *	<a href="#">ABC Water Treatment Operator Class III</a>
Class IV *	<a href="#">ABC Water Treatment Operator Class IV</a>



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<b>Distribution System Operator Class I *</b>	<a href="#">ABC Water Distribution Operator Class II</a>
Class II *	<a href="#">ABC Water Distribution Operator Class III</a>
Class III *	<a href="#">ABC Water Distribution Operator Class IV</a>
<b>Small Water System Operator</b>	<a href="#">ABC Water Distribution Operator Class I</a>

Reference materials and formula / conversion tables for these exams are found on the following web pages:

- Reference Materials - [http://www.abccert.org/testing\\_services/ExamReferences.asp](http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/ExamReferences.asp)
- Formula / Conversion Tables - [http://www.abccert.org/testing\\_services/formulas\\_conversion\\_tables.asp](http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/formulas_conversion_tables.asp)

For those applicants who were approved for the May 2020 paper-based examination, which was cancelled, PSI will be in contact with you via email to schedule an examination. PSI test centers will first be available for use beginning **March 8, 2021**.

Individuals who wish to apply to take a certification examination are to use the application forms found on the following web site and submit them via mail delivery to the below address: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Operator-Certification-Examination-Dates-Applications-and-Reference--Materials>

Operator Certification Program, CT DPH  
410 Capitol Ave., MS#12DWS, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Applicants will be informed of your confirmation or rejection for the examination via email from this office. If confirmed, applicants will receive an additional email from PSI to schedule your computer-based exam, convenient to you. Confirmed applicants must pay a \$102.00 examination fee to PSI. Mastery report results will be available to you upon completion of the examination and provided to the CT DPH, Operator Certification Program.

Should you have further questions in regard to this matter please contact William Sullivan of this office ([dph.opcert@ct.gov](mailto:dph.opcert@ct.gov), 860-936-1266).

C: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Health

Encl. December 24, 2020 Commissioner, CT DPH Order

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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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### ORDER

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont (the Governor), in response to the global pandemic of 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to remain in effect through September 9, 2020, unless sooner terminated by the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Executive Order No. 7K, dated March 23, 2020, authorized the Commissioner of Public Health (the Commissioner) to temporarily waive, modify or suspend any regulatory requirements adopted by the Commissioner or any Boards or Commissions under Chapters 368a, 368d, 368v, 369 to 381a, inclusive, 382a, 383 to 388, inclusive, 398 to 399, inclusive, 400a, 400c and 474 of the Connecticut General Statutes as the Commissioner deems necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public health; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 1, 2020, the Governor renewed the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and declared new public health and civil preparedness emergencies, to remain in effect until February 9, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Executive Order No. 9A, dated September 8, 2020, reissued all executive orders issued pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020 that are unexpired and currently in effect as of September 8, 2020, to expire on November 9, 2020, unless earlier modified or terminated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Executive Order No. 9L, dated November 9, 2020, reissued all executive orders issued pursuant to the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared on March 10, 2020 and renewed on September 1, 2020 that are unexpired and currently in effect as of November 9, 2020, to expire on February 9, 2021, unless earlier modified or terminated; and

**WHEREAS**, sections 25-32-9(d), 25-32-11(d) and 25-32-11a(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies require that a written examination administered by the Department of Public Health (Department) be given to qualifying water treatment plant, distribution system, and small water system operator candidates;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Executive Order No. 7K, and in response to the ongoing public health crisis arising out of COVID-19, for the duration of the public



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health and civil preparedness emergencies, unless sooner modified or terminated by me by a future Order, or the Governor's earlier repeal or modification of Executive Order No. 7K, or termination of the public health and civil preparedness emergencies, **I hereby order, effectively immediately, that:**

- 1. Certified operator examinations:** Sections 25-32-9(d), 25-32-11(d) and 25-32-11a(d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are hereby modified to allow DPH to test qualifying operator candidates by way of a written examination prescribed by DPH for each applicable classification and administered by an organization designated by DPH, with such examinations to be held remotely using online methods or by other means deemed by DPH adequate to qualify the operator candidate for certification. The examinations prescribed and the organizations designated by DPH to administer such examinations shall be published on DPH's Internet website.

Ordered this 24th day of December 2020



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Deirdre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner