

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

EHDW Circular Letter #2023-06

TO: Department of Public Health (DPH) Certified Water System Operators
Community and Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Systems (PWSs)

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief *Lori J. Mathieu*
Environmental Health Drinking Water Branch

DATE: February 22, 2023

SUBJECT: Reinstatement of Licensure Renewal Requirements

On February 7, 2023, the Commissioner of the CT Department of Public Health [ordered](#) an additional extension for the renewal of licensure requirements. This Order extends the requirement to renew from February 8, 2023 to May 9, 2023 for Certified Water System Operators whose certification renewal was previously suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. No additional extension or modification of the renewal deadline is expected.

Currently there are 445 Certified Water System Operators and Certified Backflow Prevention Device Testers and Cross Connection Survey Inspectors whose certifications are due to expire on May 9, 2023. This represents more than 20% of the certified operator community who, if not renewed, will no longer be certified to perform the required / necessary operational activities of our PWSs. As of today, these certified individuals now have less than 76 days remaining to renew their certification.

This more recent Order extends the expiration date beyond the 3-year renewal cycle for certifications that were **originally due to expire on March 31, 2020**. As a result, these certifications must meet the requirements for **both** renewal cycles by the extended May 9, 2023 expiration date. Separate renewal notices will be issued to these operators.

Note, if an operator files an application without leaving sufficient time for the department to process the application, the operator's certification will expire on May 9, 2023. Any operator with an expired certification will be prohibited from performing water system operations, backflow prevention device testing or cross connection inspections, as specified by Connecticut General Statute 25-32(n).

Section 25-32-14 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies also makes clear that if a certificate is not renewed by the expiration date, the certificate expires and the operator is no longer certified. Expired certifications may be renewed up to 6 months following the expiration date (i.e. November 9, 2023) through submission of a completed application that meets the renewal requirements. If not renewed within six months of the expiration date, individuals have to meet all initial certification eligibility requirements (i.e. application, passage of examination) to become certified again.



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The Operator Certification Program has mailed and emailed renewal applications to each operator whose certification renewal requirements were suspended. We strongly encourage you to assess, for all operational staff persons, the status of their certification. You may request an operator's renewal application by contacting the Operator Certification Program (dph.opcert@ct.gov, 860-936-1266). Operators are to print and fill out their renewal application and mail it to the below mailing address along with the required application fee (payee "Treasurer, State of Connecticut", bank check, personnel check or money order) and where applicable include copies of training course certificates and/or transcripts.

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