



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Regulation Summary: Education and Experience Requirements for Water Treatment Plant, Distribution System and Small Water System Operator Certification Examinations

Reference: Section 25-32-7a to 25-32-14 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA)

To become certified as a water operator (see Certified Operator Types and Levels below), individuals must pass an examination administered by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). In order to qualify for an examination an individual must meet the minimum education and experience requirements as specified below (see the referenced RCSA cited above).

1. Education Requirement:

For all operator certification types and class levels the examination applicant must have a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.

Education Substitution: For Small Water System examination applicants 6 months of experience in operation of a small water system, treatment plant or distribution system may be substituted for the education requirement. This cannot be the same 6 months used to satisfy the experience requirement.

2. Minimum Operational Experience Requirements:

To be certified as a Water Treatment Plant, Distribution System or Small Water System Operator individuals must meet the minimum experience requirement described below.

Certified Operator Types and Levels

Small Water System Operator

Required Experience: 6 months of experience in operation of a small water system, distribution system or treatment plant

Experience Substitution: 20 hours of training that is deemed acceptable to the DPH

Distribution System Class I Operator

Required Experience: 1 year of experience in operation of distribution system(s)

Experience Substitution: none

Distribution System Class II Operator

Required Experience: 2 years of experience in operation of distribution system(s)

Experience Substitution: up to 1 year of educational training beyond high school in a field applicable to distribution systems may be substituted for an equal amount of required experience, however, 1 year of experience is required

Distribution System Class III Operator

Required Experience: 4 years of experience in operation of distribution system(s)

Experience Substitution: up to 3 years of educational training beyond high school in a field applicable to distribution systems may be substituted for an equal amount of required experience, however, 1 year of experience is required

Water Treatment Plant Class I Operator

Required Experience: 1 year of experience in operation of Class I or higher Treatment Plant(s)

Experience Substitution: none

Water Treatment Plant Class II Operator

Required Experience: a total of 2 years of experience in operation of Class II or higher Treatment Plant(s) and/or in "direct responsible charge" of Class I Treatment Plant(s)

*Experience Substitution**:* up to 1 year of educational training beyond high school in a field applicable to water treatment may be substituted for an equal amount of required experience, however, 1 year of experience is required



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Water Treatment Plant Class III Operator

Required Experience: a total of 3 years of experience in operation of Class III or higher Treatment Plant(s) and/or in "direct responsible charge" of Class II Treatment Plant(s)

*Experience Substitution** : up to 2 years of educational training beyond high school in a field applicable to water treatment may be substituted for an equal amount of required experience, however, 1 year of experience is required*

Water Treatment Plant Class IV Operator

Required Experience: a total of 4 years of experience in operation of Class IV Treatment Plant(s) and/or in "direct responsible charge" of Class III Treatment Plant(s)

*Experience Substitution** : up to 3 years of educational training beyond high school in a field applicable to water treatment may be substituted for an equal amount of required experience, however, 1 year of experience is required*

To become certified as a Operator-in-Training (OIT), for each of the Certified OIT Types and Levels listed below, individuals must pass an examination administered by the CT DPH. In order to take an examination an individual must meet the minimum education requirements as specified below (see the referenced RCSA cited above).

1. Educational Requirements:

In order to qualify for an examination for each of the operator OIT certification types and class levels listed below, the applicant must have a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma. Applicants must also have a "certificate of achievement in water management" from a Connecticut Community College or must have course equivalent, as determined by the department.

Certified OIT Types and Levels

Distribution System OIT Class I
Distribution System OIT Class II
Distribution System OIT Class III

Water Treatment Plant OIT Class I
Water Treatment Plant OIT Class II
Water Treatment Plant OIT Class III
Water Treatment Plant OIT Class IV

** =Wastewater experience may be accepted as "education in a field of study applicable to water treatment " and substituted for experience as allowed by the regulations. The following conditions apply: 1) The applicant must be certified as a wastewater treatment operator, 2) 50% of the time of wastewater experience may be accepted as education; and 3) A minimum of one year of water treatment experience is still required to qualify for the examination.



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