



Drinking Water Treatment

Minimum Qualifications for Examination and Eligibility Criteria for Certification

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Eligibility Criteria for Certification
T1	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency*.	Successful completion of the Grade T1 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application.
T2	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency* AND One 3-unit (or 36-hour) course of specialized training covering the fundamentals of drinking water treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade T2 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application.
T3	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency* AND Two 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that include at least one course in drinking water treatment and a second course in either drinking water treatment, distribution, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade T3 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application AND At least one year of operator experience working as a certified T2 operator at a T2 facility or higher. This may be substituted with (3) below. AND At least one additional year of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator. This may be substituted with (1), (2), or (4) below.
T4	Current T3 certification AND Three 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that include at least two courses in the fundamentals of drinking water treatment and a third course in either drinking water treatment, distribution, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade T4 examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification AND At least one year of operator experience working as shift or chief operator, while a certified T3 operator at a T3 facility or higher. This may be substituted with (3) below. AND At least three additional years of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (4) below.
T5	Current T4 certification AND Four 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that include at least two courses in drinking water treatment and two additional courses in either drinking water treatment, distribution, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade T5 examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification AND At least two years of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while a certified T4 operator at a T4 facility or higher. There are no substitutions. AND At least three additional years of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (4) below.

*High School Diploma/GED equivalency for **Grades 1 and 2 ONLY** can be fulfilled with either successful completion of **Basic Small Water Systems Operations** course provided by the Department **OR 1 year** as an operator of a facility that required an understanding of a chemical feeds, hydraulic systems, and pumps.

Experience substitutions for certification, as referenced above.

- 1) A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows:
 - a) Associate's Degree or Certificate in Water or Wastewater Technology that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological science may be used to fulfill **1 year of operator experience**.
 - b) Bachelor's Degree in engineering or in physical, chemical, or biological sciences (e.g Biology, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Microbiology, Public Health, or Sanitary Engineering) may be used to fulfill **1.5 years of operator experience**.
 - c) Master's Degree in the above mentioned fields in (b) may be used to fulfill **2 years of operator experience**.
- 2) A certified operator may substitute, on a day-for-day basis, experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality related projects of research (e.g. pilot plant).
- 3) If an applicant has a Bachelor's or Master's of Science degree, completion of a comprehensive operator training program, pursuant to Section 63800(h), may be substituted for the required experience.
- 4) Experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment operator may be used to substitute up to 2 years of the experience requirement. Wastewater treatment operator experience is credited on a two-for-one basis (i.e. 2 months in wastewater=1 month in drinking water).