



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Drinking Water Operator Certification Rule

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Governor

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Public water supplies that must have a certified operator:

All community public water systems, all nontransient noncommunity public water systems, and any transient noncommunity public water systems that are using surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water or any transient noncommunity public water systems that require complex treatment.

The different types of water distribution systems and what they mean:

- Distribution system small (Class DSS) – Distribution systems that serve fewer than 3,301 and have no components other than pressure tanks or storage tanks or are nontransient noncommunity public water systems that serve fewer than 501 and have no treatment other than ion exchange or inline filtration.
- Distribution system medium (Class DSM) – Distribution systems that serve a population greater than 3,300 and less than 10,001 people and have no components other than pressure tanks or storage tanks, or distribution systems that consists of pumps, storage tanks, and/or booster pumps to the storage tanks.
- Distribution system large (Class DSL) – Distribution systems that serve a population greater than 10,000 or distribution systems that consists of ~~storage tanks~~, booster pumps to the distribution system, or mechanical devices for movement of water beyond storage.

The different types of water treatment systems and what they mean:

- Water treatment 1 (Class WT1) – Water treatment plants that serve a population of less than 501, acquire water from ground water or purchase, and use either an ion exchange softening process for cation removal or an inline filtration device with no chemical treatment.
- Water treatment 2 (Class WT2) – Water treatment plants that acquire water from ground water or purchase and utilize a chemical feed to achieve disinfection or fluoride standardization or water stabilization or water treatment plants that serve populations greater than 500 and less than 3,301 that use either ion exchange softening for cation removal or an inline filtration device.
- Water treatment 3 (Class WT3) – Water treatment plants that acquire water from ground water or purchase, utilize a chemical feed and have one of the following:
 - Pressure or gravity filtration.
 - Ion exchange processes (if the population served is greater than 3300).
 - Lime soda softening.
 - Reverse osmosis.
 - Inline filtration, if the population is greater than 3,300.
- Water treatment 4 (Class WT4) – Water treatment plants that serve a population less than 10,001 and acquire water from surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water.
- Water treatment 5 (Class WT5) – Water treatment plants that serve a population greater than 10,000 and acquire water from surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water.
- Water treatment 6 (Class WT6) – Water treatment plants that utilize newly emerging treatment technology not commonly in use for drinking water treatment in Indiana, as determined by the IDEM commissioner.

Who administers the certification of water operators:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality, Drinking Water Branch – Mail Code 66-34
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251
Contact: Ruby Keslar, 317-234-7431

Requirements to become a certified operator:

- All individuals for each class must pass an examination, unless exempted by statute or rule, have a high school education or its equivalent and possess educational skills necessary to:
 - handle fractions and decimals;
 - read a linear scale;
 - calculate volumes of simple shapes;
 - make simple computations of multiplication and division;
 - keep records;
 - read and write the English language to the extent of interpreting service manuals, work orders and submitting written reports; and,
 - understand basic principles of sanitation-and science.
- Each grade of water works operator certification requires a specific amount of acceptable work experience that has been obtained under the supervision of an appropriately certified operator.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs):

- All certified operators are required to obtain a designated number of continuing education contact hours during their three-year renewal period. CEUs are broken down into contact hours which are 50 to 60 minute instructional sessions involving a qualified instructor or lecturer. Ten contact hours equals one CEU. Each grade of operator must complete a specific amount of contact hours in order to renew their certification. The following shows the contact hours needed for each Certified Operator Class for every three-year renewal:
 - DSS 10 contact hours
 - DSM 15 contact hours
 - DSL 15 contact hours
 - WT1 10 contact hours
 - WT2 15 contact hours
 - WT3 25 contact hours
 - WT4 30 contact hours
 - WT5 30 contact hours
 - WT6 30 contact hours

More Information:

- For more information on Operator Certification, please contact IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at 317-232-8670, or 800-451-6027, ask to be connected to 2-8670.
- For information on federal drinking water standards, please contact Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

This technical guidance is intended solely as guidance and does not have the effect of law or represent formal Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) decisions or final actions. This guidance document shall be used in conjunction with applicable rules and statutes. It does not replace applicable rules and statutes, and if it conflicts with these rules and statutes, the rules and statutes shall control.