

Use this information to help you determine what level of operator certification you should apply for.

Note: A high school diploma, or GED is required for all levels

Operator Type & Level	Experience & Post HS education		Operational Decision Making (ODM)
	Experience	Education	
Small Water System	none	6 hours of approved State training	None
Operator in Training (OIT)	3 months	HS/GED	None
WD/WT Level 1	12 months	None	None
	None	12-month certificate or Associates degree in Authority approved water & environmental technology program	None
WD/WT Level 2	36 months	None	None
	24 months	12 months	None
WD/WT Level 3	96 months	None	30 months
	60 months	12 months	30 months
	48 months	24 months	24 months
	36 months	36 months	18 months
WD/WT Level 4	120 months	None	36 months
	84 months	12 months	30 months
	72 months	24 months	30 months
	60 months	36 months	30 months
	48 months	48 months	24 months
Filtration Endorsement	Level 2 operator		One year at a conventional or direct filtration treatment plant

- One year of experience is equivalent to 12 months of full-time employment with 100% of the applicant’s time dedicated to activities directly related to the certification they are applying for. *(See rules regarding substitute experience.)*
- Operating experience earned at a water treatment plant or distribution system is considered qualifying experience for certification up to 1 classification level higher than that of the water system facility were the experience was earned.
- 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours of professional continuing education can be substituted for 1 year of post high school education.
- Individual contractors must submit a signed contract by both parties to the DWS before work can begin to determine if it meets the DWS rules.
- **Small Water System** = Community or non-transient non-community having less than 150 connections using groundwater as its source or purchasing its water without adding any additional treatment
- **ODM** = Operational Decision Making
- **FE** = Filtration Endorsement (This requires an exam but no additional yearly certification fees.)

A full set of OARs can be found on the website bit.ly/drinkingwaterrules