

Drinking Water Program Continuing Education for Certified Operators

The public health objectives of the operator certification program are to ensure that:

- Customers are provided with an adequate supply of safe, potable drinking water,
- Consumers are confident that their water is safe to drink, and
- Water system operators are trained and certified to show they have the knowledge and skills to deliver water that meets the drinking water standards.

Continuing Education for Professional Growth

In order to qualify for renewal of your Water System Operator's certificate, you must provide evidence of continued professional growth in the field of Water Treatment or Water Distribution. The accumulation of two college credits or Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every two years in relevant subject matter is considered satisfactory evidence of professional growth. Two college credits in the fields of engineering, chemistry, water/ wastewater technology, or allied sciences will meet continuing education requirements. One CEU is defined as ten contact hours of qualified instruction. That is, 8 contact hours of instruction is recorded as 0.8 CEUs.

Renewal Cycle

While Operator Certificates are renewed yearly, CEUs are required to be submitted with the renewal every two years. CEUs are reported based on the last name, A-K and L-Z. Those whose last name begins with A-K must submit CEUs every EVEN year; those whose last name begins with L-Z must submit CEUs every ODD year.

OESAC

CEUs must be approved by the Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council. (OESAC) OESAC evaluates a

wide variety of courses for CEUs for both Drinking Water and Wastewater, but not all are considered relevant to water system operation. Others may be credited towards post high school education prerequisites when you apply for higher grades. Always check the OESAC Web site (www.OESAC.com) to verify that the number of credits approved is what is reflected on your certificate.

45 credits equals 1 year of post high school. Courses may include workshops, short schools, training programs, conferences or other programs which is applicable to the professional or technical fields for the system you are operating.

More notes on CEUs

1. If you were certified in another state and applied for reciprocity in Oregon during the year, you will need to report CEUs with everyone else according to your last name. While you may be new to Oregon, we expect your education to be on-going. CEUs earned out of state are reviewed on an individual basis by the Department.
2. A course can be used only once per renewal period. For example, credit cannot be given for taking the DWP's Small Water System Training Course (.6 CEU) four times during a renewal period. Only one class will count toward the required CEUs.
3. If you are an operator who also has Cross Connection or Backflow certification and that's the only type of CEU you have ever sent in, we encourage you to take a variety of classes to increase your professional competence.

All CEUs submitted for DWP operator renewals must be approved by OESAC.

To check on course approval or to register/sponsor a course, contact:
Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council. (OESAC)