

Thank you for applying for an Oregon Drinking Water Operator Certification. The below instructions will help you fill out the Operator Certification Application.

- After completing your application, make a copy to keep for your records before submitting it.
- You may submit a copy of your application and supporting documentation by mail, email, or fax.
- Once the application is received it will be reviewed for completeness. We will notify you by phone, email, or mail if we require additional information to process your application.
- If you qualify to take the exam, AMP will notify you by email, and you will have 90 days to schedule the exam.
 - You can take the exam up to 2 times in a year
- Once you pass the exam, and we have your results from AMP, you will be issued an Operator Certification.

Need Help determining which level of certification you can apply for, or how to calculate your experience?

- Operating Experience must have been gained through direct, “hands-on” operation of water system facilities and includes but is not limited to, decisions related to water quality or quantity that may affect public health.
- Distribution Experience: in one of the following fields, not to exceed ½ of the total experience required: wastewater collection, water treatment, cross connection control, industrial or commercial process water treatment.
- Treatment Experience: in one of the following fields, not to exceed ½ of the total experience required: wastewater treatment, wastewater treatment laboratory, water distribution, industrial or commercial process water treatment.
- The chart on the below is from OAR 333-061-0235 and will help you determine how much education and experience you need for each level of certification.

| Cert Type & Level <i>D= Distribution T=Treatment</i> | Experience & Post High School Education | | ODM Experience |
|---|---|---|--|
| | Experience ¹ | Education ² | |
| D/T Level 1 | 12 months | None | None |
| D/T Level 1 | None | 12-month certificate or Associate degree in an Authority approved water & environmental technology program. | None |
| D/T Level 2 | 36 months | None | None |
| D/T Level 2 | 24 months | 12 months | None |
| D /T Level 3 | 96 months | None | 30 months |
| D /T Level 3 | 60 months | 12 months | 30 months |
| D /T Level 3 | 48 months | 24 months | 24 months |
| D /T Level 3 | 36 months | 36 months | 18 months |
| D/T Level 4 | 120 months | None | 36 months |
| D/T Level 4 | 84 months | 12 months | 30 months |
| D/T Level 4 | 72 months | 24 months | 30 months |
| D/T Level 4 | 60 months | 36 months | 30 months |
| D/T Level 4 | 48 months | 48 months | 24 months |
| Filtration Endorsement | L 2 operator | | 12 months 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.
- 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.

Application Packet Instructions

1. Personal Information

- Provide your first name, middle initial and last name.
- Social Security # is required for certification. If this is your very first certification with DWS we cannot process your application without your social security number. If you already have an active certification with DWS, you can leave the field blank and check the box 'Already on File'.

2. Employer Information

- Provide the name of the company or water system you work for. If you work for a water system, please also include the PWS ID#. If you are currently unemployed, just leave this section blank.

3. Contact Information

- **Address:** Provide the mailing address where you want certification and correspondence from this office to be mailed. Identify whether this is your work address or home address.
- **Phone:** Provide at least one phone number.
- **Email:** We may use your email to contact you about your application, and it is how AMP/ABC will contact you if you are approved to take the exam.

4. Certification & Fees

- **Certification:** Select all the certification(s) you are applying for.
 - Note Filtration Endorsement (FE): Must currently have a Treatment Level 2 certification, have 1-year of operational decision-making experience at a water treatment plant with conventional or direct filtration treatment.
- **Fees:** The two-year certification cycle is split up based on your last name.
- Last names that begin with A-K expire in even numbered years.
- Last names that begin with L-Z expire in odd numbered years.
- Fees are based on where we are in the certification cycle at the time that you apply.
- Fees are prorated by 50% if applications are submitted ½ way though the cycle.
- Please use the chart below to determine your application fee.

| First Initial of Last Name | Year | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | FE | Expiration |
|----------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|-----------------|
| A-K | Even | \$45 | \$62.50 | \$80 | \$97.50 | \$45 | 12/31 this year |
| | Odd | \$90 | \$125 | \$160 | \$195 | \$90 | 12/31 next year |
| L-Z | Even | \$90 | \$125 | \$160 | \$195 | \$90 | 12/31 next year |
| | Odd | \$45 | \$62.50 | \$80 | \$97.50 | \$45 | 12/31 this year |

5. Payment Options (*pick one*)

- **Check:** Make your check out to OHA Cashier
Sign and mail all documents to: OHA Cashier; PO Box 14260; Portland, OR 97293
- **Credit Card:** Pay online <https://apps.oregon.gov/ECommerce/DHSOHA/EPS/Program?key=13>
 - Sign and send all documents (including payment receipt) by mail, email, or fax.
 - Mail: DWS-OpCert; PO Box 14260; Portland, OR 97293 Email: dws.opcert@odhsoha.oregon.gov
Fax: 971-673-0694

6. Certification History

- Answer the two yes/no questions.
- Provide a list of certifications you currently hold with DWS. Include: distribution, treatment, specialist, or tester certification.

7. Education & Employment History

- **Education:** Provide the date you were awarded your high school diploma or GED and attach a copy to the application. If you have a current certification with DWS please check the box next to 'on file with DWS'.
- If you attended college, provide your college information and attach a copy of your transcripts. If they are already on file, please write 'already on file'
- If you are substituting CEU certificates in place of college credits, check the box and attach the certificates.
- Level 1 certification: an authority approved certificate or degree can substitute for all the required operating experience.
- **Employment History (Experience):** Complete an 'Employment History' form and an 'Affidavit of Employment' form for each water related job you have held.

Employment History form (*attached as page 2*)

- Complete an “Employment History” form for each water related job you have held.
- The form allows you to include two jobs per page, make additional copies of page 2 as necessary.
- Not sure of the water system ID, address, phone number? Check Data online www.yourwater.oregon.gov and search by water system name.
- Submit an original or a copy with your application.

Affidavit of Employment form (*attached as page 3*)

- Key: O&M = Operation and Maintenance, WWC= Waste Water Collections, WWT = Waste Water Treatment
- Complete an Affidavit of Employment for each water related job you have held. It must be signed by the owner, immediate supervisor, or the DRC of the system the experience was obtained at.
- Make additional copies of page 3 as necessary.
- **Operational Decision Making (ODM)** means having responsibility for making decisions among alternatives in the performance of the water treatment plant or the water distribution system regarding water quality or quantity which affect public health. Only a certified operation can make operational decisions and earn credit for ODM.
- **Filtration Endorsement (FE):** only fill in this section if you are applying for a FE. To apply, you must currently have a Treatment Level 2 certification and have 1-year of ODM experience at a water treatment plant with conventional or direct filtration treatment.
- The affidavit must be **signed by your immediate supervisor or the DRC** for the water system.
- Submit an original or a copy with your application.

Additional information and forms at www.healthoregon.org/opcert
Need help? Contact the program 971-673-0321 or email dws.opcert@odhsoha.oregon.gov