



Drinking Water Distribution

Minimum Qualifications for Examination and Eligibility Criteria for Certification

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Eligibility Criteria for Certification
D1	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency*	Successful completion of the Grade D1 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application.
D2	High School Diploma / GED Equivalency* AND One 3-unit (or 36-hour) course of specialized training covering the fundamentals of water supply principles.	Successful completion of the Grade D2 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application.
D3	Current D2 certification AND Two 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least one course in the fundamentals of water supply principles and a second course in either drinking water distribution, treatment, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade D3 examination within the three years prior to submitting certification application AND At least one year of operator experience working as a certified D2 operator for a D2 system or higher AND At least one additional year of operator experience working as a certified distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below.
D4	Current D3 certification AND Three 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least two courses in the fundamentals of water supply principles and a third course in either drinking water distribution, treatment, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade D4 examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification AND At least one year of operator experience working as a certified D3 operator for a D3 system or higher AND At least three additional years of operator experience working as a certified distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) below.
D5	Current D4 certification AND Four 3-unit (or 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least two courses in the fundamentals of water supply principles and two additional courses in either drinking water distribution, treatment, or wastewater treatment.	Successful completion of the Grade D5 examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification AND At least two years of operator experience working as a certified D4 operator for a D4 or D5 system AND At least three additional years of operator experience working as a certified distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) 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 piping system that included pumps, valves, and storage tanks.

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, **1 additional year of operator experience** working as a certified distribution operator with experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality or quantity related projects or research.