



Water Treatment Minimum Qualifications for Certification

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Certification
T1	Successful completion of the Grade T1 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification
T2	Successful completion of the Grade T2 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification
T3	Successful completion of the Grade T3 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, AND: One year of operator experience working as a certified T2 operator for a T2 facility or higher (may be substituted with (3) below) AND: One additional year of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1), (2) or (4) below)
T4	Successful completion of the Grade T4 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, AND: One year of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T3 operator certificate for a T3 facility or higher (may be substituted with (3) below) AND: Three additional years of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)
T5	Successful completion of the Grade T5 operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, AND: Two years of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T4 operator certificate for a T4 facility or higher (no substitutions) AND: Three additional years of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)

Experience substitutions for certification, as referenced above.

- 1) A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows:
 - a) Associate 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 additional operator experience**.
 - b) Bachelor Degree in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental engineering, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill **1.5 years of additional operator experience**.
 - c) Masters Degree in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill **2 years of additional operator experience**.
- 2) A certified operator may substitute, on a day-for-day basis, experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality related projects or research (i.e., pilot plant).
- 3) If an applicant has a Bachelor of Science or Master of Science Degree, completion of a comprehensive operator training program, pursuant to Section 63800 (h), may be substituted for the required experience.
- 4) Experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment operator may be used to substitute up to 2 years of the additional experience requirement. Wastewater treatment operator experience is credited on a two-for-one basis (2 months in wastewater = 1 month in drinking water).