

NEW ENGLAND DRINKING WATER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

DEVELOPED BY NEWWA OPERATOR CERTIFICATION WORKGROUP (Revised 3/29/2024)
NEWWA OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

CERTIFICATION	CT	MA	VT	NH	RI	ME
Number of Cert. Operators	>2,100	Approximately 3,500	Approx. 1,300 fully certified classes 1A, 1B, 2, 3 & 4 & D	~1000	Approximately 500	Approximately 1,100
Treatment-System Requires Certified Operator	All community and NTNC systems	All	All TNC registered only for 1A, disinfection only 1B	Community and NTNC systems with treatment	All community and NTNC systems. TNCs all treatment.	All community and NTNC and TNC using surface water
Distribution Requires Certified Operators	≥1,000 All community and NTNC systems	All	All. (Only consecutive TNCs. TNCs registered only unless treating)	All community and NTNC systems and PORS (Privately Owned Redistributed Systems)	All community and NTNC systems	All community and NTNC and TNC using surface water
Agency that Certifies Operators Website Address:	DPH www.ct.gov/dph/public/drinkingwater	Division of Professional Licensure DEP: www.state.ma.us/dep/Board Board: www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/dw/default.htm	DEC www.drinkingwater.vt.gov	DES www.des.nh.gov	RI Drinking Water Operator Certification Board via DOH www.health.ri.gov	Board of Licensure of Water System Operators www.medwp.com
Agency rates systems for treatment Website Address:	DPH www.ct.gov using "ABC" Classification Form	DEP DEP: www.state.ma.us/dep/Board Board: www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/dw/default.htm	DEC www.vermontdrinkingwater.org	DES www.des.nh.gov	RI Drinking Water Operator Certification Bd. via DOH (Board does function in an advisory capacity. www.health.ri.gov	DHHS www.medwp.com
Advisory Committee (size)	Yes (8)	Certification Board (7)	Yes (8)	No	Certification Board (7)	Yes (9) Board of Licensure
How often does Committee/Board meet?	Monthly	Monthly	Quarterly	N/A	Quarterly	Quarterly
Level of Certification						
Treatment	4	4 & VND	4	4	4	4
Distribution	3	4	D	4	4	4
VSS	Yes (small)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vending Machine	No	Yes/3 Months	No	No	No	No
How are systems classified?						
Treatment	Treatment Complexity	Treatment Complexity	Treatment complexity and population (4 only)	Treatment complexity	Treatment complexity	Treatment complexity point system
Distribution	Point system Population based	Point system including disinfection only		Point system	Point system	
In Line Treatment - Any Chemical Addition = Treatment	Yes	Population based Yes, except chlorine	All the same Yes	Population based Yes	Population based Yes	Population based Yes

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Can anyone take exam?	No experience for operator in training certification., HS diploma and specific experience is necessary for full certification	No-one can take VSS or Grade 1 exams. Grade 2 or higher level exams require the applicant to meet specific training requirements. Exams must be taken sequentially.	Yes - need experience and must pass exam to be fully certified. Must have High School Diploma or equivalent.	No, experience is required. HS diploma or equivalent Yes 1A - < 500 Depends on grade of exam, contact NH DES.	Yes, with exception of Grade 4 exam. Experience required for full cert. OIT, no experience required. See regulations	Yes, exams can be taken and passed prior to license application. OIT or Full licensure determined upon education, examination and experience. HS diploma required at all levels.
Number of exams per year.	4	MA uses on-line exams administered by ABC/AMP offered continuously throughout the year.	2	3	3	ME uses on-line exams administered continuously throughout the year. Paper exams given as needed.
ABC exam used	Yes-Prescriptive	Yes	Yes, prescriptive ABC Exam for classes 3,4 & D; Class 2 State exam; Class 1 No exam required	Yes for Grades 1-4 VSS (1A) is a State Exam	Yes	Yes
Pass score	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%
Does the certification authority supply certificate?	Yes with date	Yes, if requested by applicant	Yes with date	Yes	Yes	Yes (no date)
License Card	No	Yes	No	Yes for renewal	Yes	Yes (with date)
Operator in training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (1-3)	Yes (1-4 T and D and VSWS))
Recertification requirements	Yes – training hours	Yes Contact hours	Yes – Contact hours or re-examination	Yes - Contact hours	Yes - Contact hours	Yes – Contact hours
Recertification cycle	3 Years	2 Years	3 Years	2 Years	3 Years - Full 2 Years - OIT	2 Years
Contact hours required per cycle 1 CEU = 10 contact hours	Small, 1 – 10 hours 2 – 20 hours 3, 4 – 30 hours	VSS - 5 hours 1 & 2 - 10 hours 3 - 15 hours 4 - 20 hours	1A - None 1B – 3 hours required 2 - 10 hours required 3,4 & D - 20 hrs required	1A - 5 hours (VSS) 1 - 4 - 20 hours	<u>Full/OIT</u> VSS – 3/hrs./2hrs. 1 & 2 - 15 hrs./10 hrs. 3 - 30 hrs./20 hrs. 4-30 hrs./no-4 OIT	VSWS – 6 hours 1 – 12 hours 2 – 18 hours 3 & 4 – 24 hours
Contact hour/tracking	Operators	Operators	Operators/DEC	Operators	Operators	Operators/Board
Verification of C hours	Documents Review	Affidavit & audit	Documents Review	Documents review	Documents review	Document Review
Are renewal notices sent?	Automatically-3 months prior to expiration of certification	Automatically	Automatically	Automatically	Automatically- 60 days prior to the expiration of the certification.	Automatically

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Will the certification authority reinstate a lapse certificate without exam?	Up to six months	Only within two years of expiration date	No	No	Working min. 20% time Up to six months after expiration Letter from supervisor up to date with TCH	Up to two years after expiration
Does the certification authority provide pre-exam training?	No	Board – no-private organizations (i.e. NEWWA, MWWA) as approved by the board.	Yes, basic courses scheduled prior to exams	No	No ERG sponsored trainings provided by contractor	No Partially funded Drinking Water Program
Reciprocity with ABC	Yes	Yes, with regards to ABC exam.	Yes	Yes -case by case basis	Yes for certification not for exam	Yes Case by case
Reciprocity with other New England states	No to individual states	Yes, if ABC Exam has been used The applicant does not need to retake the exam. Must meet MA education/experience requirement	Yes -case by case basis	Yes -case by case basis	Yes –case-by-case basis	Yes Case by Case
Certified Operator staffing requirements.	All operators in direct responsible charge	A primary and secondary operator by shifts	primary operator	primary operator	Primary - by shifts	Primary Designated Operator qualified in all operating categories is in responsible charge. Written SOPS required for under or unlicensed staff.
Staffing	2.0 FT/E	.25 FT/E	.20 FT/E	1 FT/E	1 FT/E	1.0 FT/E
Certification Fee (1st time)	Yes	\$58.00 (\$23.00 application fee, \$35.00 licensure fee w/application, wall certificate: \$5.00 additional)	1 - \$45.00 2, 3, 4 & D \$80.00	No	No	Yes \$75.00 initial \$20.00 upgrade
Exam Fee	\$41.00 (ABC) \$224.00 (CT)	\$144.00 AMP/ABC Exam Fee	No Charge	\$50.00 per exam	Paper Exam: \$40.50 ABC E-Exam: \$102.00	Paper Exam, Board Proctored: \$95.00 Online Exam, AMP Proctored Class 1-4: \$93.00 Online Exam: AMP Proctored VSWS: \$75.00
Renewal Fee	\$98.00	\$35.00 per certification	1 - \$35.00 2, 3, 4 & D \$70.00	\$50.00/per cycle	No	\$75.00 per two year cycle
Are fees used for program?	Yes	No - General Fund	Department Fund	Yes - dedicated fund	N/A	Yes-dedicated fund
Enforcement - Utility	DPH primacy agent	DEP primacy agent	DEC primacy agent	DES primacy agent	DOH primacy agent	DHHS primacy agent
Can the certification authority revoke certification?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Reciprocity Matrix for New England Certified Operators

To become certified by reciprocity, the applicant must meet the **educational** and **experience requirements** of the state to which they are making application for reciprocity.

	CT	MA	VT	NH	RI	ME
Application Availability	www.ct.gov/publicdrinkingwater 860-509-7333	www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/dw 617-727-3939	www.drinkingwater.vt.gov	www.des.nh.gov/dwgb 603-271-2410	www.health.ri.gov 401-222-6867	www.medwp.com 207-287-5699
Exam Equivalents	Requires ABC exam or equivalent with passing grade of 70% in grade applied for.	Requires ABC exam with passing grade of 70% in grade applied for.	Requires ABC exam or equivalent with passing grade of 70% in grade applied for.	Requires passing an ABC exam or equivalent in grade applied for.	Requires ABC exam or equivalent with passing grade of 70% in grade applied for.	Requires ABC exam or equivalent with passing grade of 70% in grade applied for.
Grade/Class for which Reciprocity May Be Granted	Treatment 1,2,3,4 Distribution 1,2,3 Small Water System OIT	Treatment 1,2,3,4 Distribution 1,2,3, 4 VSS and Vending	Treatment 2,3,4 Distribution	Treatment 1,2,3,4 Distribution 1,2,3,4	Treatment 1,2,3,4 Distribution 1,2,3,4 VSS-T, VSS-D	Treatment 1,2,3,4 Distribution 1,2,3,4 VSS
Is Reciprocity Granted for Operator in Training (OIT)	Yes – all grades	Yes – all grades	No	No	No	Yes, case by case basis
Application Process & Documentation Required	Copies of educational diplomas / transcripts. Copy of current license. Contact information of reciprocating state. Contact information of past employers.	Copies of educational diplomas / transcripts. Copy of current license. Contact information of reciprocating state. Contact information of past employers.	Copies of educational diplomas / transcripts including high school. Copy of current license. Written reference from employer	Copies of educational diplomas / transcripts. Copy of current license. Copy of certification rules of reciprocating state.	Copies of educational diplomas / transcripts only for grade 4 license. Copy of current license. Will request other info if needed.	Copies of educational diplomas / transcripts. Copy of current license. Contact information of reciprocating state. Contact information of past employers.
Fee	\$224.00	\$58.00	\$80.00	\$50.00	No Fee	\$75.00
Certification Contact Information	William Sullivan Phone: (860) 509-7333 Fax: (860) 509-7359 william.sullivan@ct.gov	Michael Celona Phone: (617)-634-9358 Fax: (617) 292-5696 Michael.Celona@mass.gov	Meagan Cummings Phone: (802) 636-7222 Fax: (802) 828-1541 meagan.cummings@vermont.gov	Jason Smith Phone: (603) 271-2410 Fax: (603) 271-5171 Jason.M.Smith2@des.nh.gov	Brenda Cheaye Phone: (401) 222-7533 Fax: (401) 222-6953 brenda.cheaye@health.ri.gov	David Welch Phone: (207)-287-3056 Fax: (207) 287-4172 cell: 207-418-6130 David.Welch@maine.gov