

# 3.27 BOARD OF WATERWORKS AND WASTE SYSTEMS OPERATORS CERTIFICATION

## Information to Become a Water or Wastewater Certified Operator or Superintendent

### Why do I need to be certified?

This certification helps to protect public health and the environment by setting minimum education, experience, and examination standards that applicants must satisfy. It is required for individuals working in water treatment plants, water distribution systems, wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems, certain pretreatment facilities that discharge to sanitary sewers, or industrial wastewater facilities who make process control decisions or determine remedial action in emergencies.

### What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

STATE: Environment Article, Title 12; [COMAR 26.06.01](#).

### What is the process to get this approval?

- 1) Employment at a water, wastewater or industrial works in Maryland, or employment pending the issuance of Maryland Certification, is required.
- 2) Determine the correct facility classification(s) for your certificate, based upon employment – see [COMAR 26.06.01.16 Tables 1-3](#).
- 3) Submit completed certificate application form and fee to the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators.
- 4) Pass necessary certification examination(s).
- 5) Complete experience and education requirements – see [COMAR 26.06.01.16 Tables 4-7](#).
- 6) Submit a completed application for full certification and the application fee to the Board.

### APPLICATIONS & OTHER INFO

- [Application for Operator-in-Training \(OIT\) Certificate](#)
- [Application for Operator Certification](#)
- [Application for Operator Examination](#)
- [Application for Superintendent Certificate](#)
- [Application for Reciprocity Certificate](#)
- [Application for Training Approval](#)

To request a Reinstatement or Renewal Application, contact the Board at [wwso.board@maryland.gov](mailto:wwso.board@maryland.gov) or (410)537-3167. *Please have your certification number available.*

### Are there any other requirements?

**PRE- APPROVAL:** A minimum of high school education, six months to three years of related work experience (based upon facility class) and pass the appropriate examination.

**POST-APPROVAL:** Renewal requires completion of specified number of hours of Board-approved training- see [COMAR 26.06.01.13](#). Contact the Board for the details.

**Once I get this approval, how long will it last?** Maximum of three years; renewal is required.

### How long should I expect it to take to get this approval after I submit a complete application?

Type of Certificate	Turnaround Time
Initial certificates	45 days
Renewal certificates	30 days

### How much will this approval cost?

Application	Fee
Examination	\$50
Initial certificate for OIT, operator or superintendent for each certification category*	\$50
Renewal fee for each certification category*	\$50 each with \$100 cap if renewed at same time

For fee details, see [COMAR 26.06.01.07](#)

### Do I need to know any additional information?

- 1) \*Certification categories:
  - Water Treatment
  - Wastewater Treatment
  - Industrial Wastewater Treatment
  - Water Distribution
  - Wastewater Collections
- 2) Exams are given monthly by the Board; applications and fees must be received at least three weeks before the examination date. Exams are also available by an approved third-party proctor in and around Maryland.
- 3) Renewal dates are based upon the date of issuance. Multiple renewal dates can be aligned to a single renewal date; contact the Board for more information.

### Am I eligible for Reciprocity?

- 1) Before applying, you must be employed at a facility in Maryland or employment pending the issuance of your Maryland Certification.
- 2) Your experience & current certification from the previous state of employment must be equal to the treatment process that you will be working with in Maryland.
- 3) See Reciprocity Application for additional requirements.

### Who do I contact with additional questions?

MDE Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators  
[wwso.board@maryland.gov](mailto:wwso.board@maryland.gov)  
(410) 537-3167