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) You must be employed at a facility (works) in Maryland or have employment pending the issuance of your Maryland Certification before applying.
2) Determine the correct facility classification(s) for your certificate, based upon your 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 Initial Operator-in-Training (OIT) Certificate
Application for Initial Operator Certification
Application for Operator Examination
Application for Initial Superintendent Certificate
Application for Operator Reciprocity
Application for Training Approval.

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

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
New certificates	45 days
Renewal certificates	30 days

How much will this approval cost?

Type of Fee	Fee
Examination	$50
Application fee for OIT, operator or superintendent certificate for each facility classification*	$50
Renewal fee for each facility classification*	$50 each with cap of $100 during any 3-year renewal period

Do I need to know any additional information?

1) Facility classifications for fees*:
   - 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
Email: wwso.board@maryland.gov
Phone: (410) 537-3167