



April 28, 2021

Dear Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators:

On March 9, Governor Larry Hogan amended the Executive Order extending the renewal dates for certain expiring licenses, permits and registrations until June 30, 2021. The intent of this letter is to advise you on how this action will impact operators' certification renewals.

Outside the period covered by the Executive Order, renewals are governed by the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). For Operator certificates not renewed by the expiration date, [COMAR 26.06.01.12\(C\)](#) provides a 90-day late renewal period to complete the renewal process. After the 90-day late renewal period, if the certificate is not renewed, that certificate enters a reinstatement period of 21 months (two years from the initial expiration date). Any Operator certificate not renewed after the two-year period is considered permanently expired. In contrast, Superintendent and Operator-In-Training certificates beyond the expiration date will remain in a late renewal period and will not permanently expire.

1. Pursuant to the Executive Order, for certificates which were set to expire during the state of emergency period (March 12, 2020 to June 30, 2021), the 90-day late renewal period begins July 1, 2021. This scenario impacts all certificates that expire on or after April 1, 2020 and until such time as the state of emergency is terminated.
2. Certificates which expired between January 1 and March 1, 2020 are now in the late renewal period and will enter the reinstatement period on July 1, 2021.

### **DURATION OF ALL CERTIFICATES**

Except as noted in the Governor's order and per COMAR 26.06.01.08 (C), a certificate is invalid after the expiration date of the current certificate if not renewed in accordance with the requirements of COMAR 26.06.01.12.

### **IMPACTS UPON TRAINING AND EXAMS**

For those certificates impacted by the Executive Order, to avoid entering the late renewal or reinstatement period, operators have until June 30, 2021 to submit their renewal applications and fee, and to complete and submit proof of required training. In addition, Operators in Training (OIT) have until June 30, 2021 to complete their examination requirement for renewal.

Information pertaining to training and exams is available on the Board's web page at <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/EnvironmentalBoards/Pages/BWW.aspx>. Please refer to the page regularly for updated announcements.

### **LATE FEES**

Per COMAR 26.06.01.07-.09 the Board does not have legal authority to waive late fees. For all certifications impacted by the Governor's amended Executive Order for an administrative extension, late fees will be imposed for all renewal applications received beginning July 1, 2021:


1. Operator certifications with an expiration date within the 90-day late renewal period will incur the \$100 late fee.
2. Operator certifications with an expiration date within the 2-year reinstatement period will incur the \$150 reinstatement fee.
3. Superintendent and Operator in Training certifications within the late renewal period will incur the \$100 late fee.

### **FINAL NOTE**

Operators are encouraged to submit renewal applications, renewal fee and proof of completed training, and to meet OIT examination requirements as soon as possible to minimize incurring a late or reinstatement fee as the Board continues to process these applications in a timely manner. For questions, please contact the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators by phone at 410-537-3167 or by email at [wwso.board@maryland.gov](mailto:wwso.board@maryland.gov).

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Board of Waterworks and Waste Systems Operators (the Board) appreciate your tireless effort for providing uninterrupted services for Maryland citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Saeid Kasraei  
Program Manager  
Water Supply Program