



Recommendations of the North Battleford Commission of Inquiry states training and/or continuing education is required to maintain certification.

As of July 15, 2005, one Continuing Education Unit (CEU) every two years is required to renew the certificate. Training and/or continuing education should be provided by credible organizations and should have CEUs assigned. In general, 10 hours of training should have one CEU credit.

Continuing education is available through a number of workshops or events held annually throughout the province through SIAST, the Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association (<http://www.swwa.sk.ca/TrainCert/Training.htm>) and others.

Operator Certification Reminder to all Water and Wastewater Works Owners and Operators

Ensuring water and wastewater samples are submitted in a timely manner is important in ensuring the safety of water supplies and protecting the environment. Information is also provided explaining considerations for sample analysis now that waterworks owners find themselves in more of a competitive market situation when it comes to selecting which laboratory does their water sample tests.

If your location does not yet have a certified operator, please read on to find out more about the operator certification deadlines that are rapidly approaching.

The five-year phase-in period of the Mandatory Operator Certification Program proclaimed on July 15, 2000 is complete. By July 15, 2005, owners of waterworks and/or sewage works, other than those owners of waterworks producing or supplying water intended or used for hygienic use, must ensure the operation, maintenance and repair of these works is under the direction of an operator certified at facility class level.

A facility's main operator must be appropriately certified at facility class level in any or all of the following categories where applicable :

- water treatment;
- water distribution;
- wastewater treatment; and/or
- wastewater collection.

In addition, Saskatchewan Environment (SE) strongly encourages a back-up to the main operator or arrangements for sharing a similarly certified operator to take over for after-hours or in case of vacation, illness, or loss of the main operator for any reason.

The Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Standards 2002 and the Operator Certification Program Guide explain the criteria an operator needs to meet to become certified. SE has developed an option for a regional or contract operator. The publication Regional/Contract Operator also explains how communities can share a certified operator. Please visit the website www.Saskh20.ca/foroperators.asp for an electronic copy of these documents, or contact (306) 787-6504 for a printed copy. There is also an "Operator in Training" certification category that applies to waterworks classified as "Small Systems, Class I or Class II". The "Operator in Training" category will be helpful for those locations having difficulty in achieving operator certification.

Once your operator has passed the appropriate certification examinations, a certification application needs to be completed and submitted to the Operator Certification Board (OCB). A Certification Board Brochure and Application Form is available on the above website under "Education and Training". Operators not yet certified in all four categories can apply to the OCB for certification in the remaining categories after they have completed appropriate exams. In addition, operators can upgrade their certification levels (ie. from II to III) if needed, after they have completed appropriate exams. The upgrade and/or certification in additional categories are free. For a certification exam schedule, contact the Saskatchewan Institute of Science and Technology through the website, <http://www.siastr.sk.ca/operatorexamittings> , or call (306) 694-3282.

It is important for the protection of public health and protection of the environment that your community ensures the operator responsible for the water and sewage works is certified at the appropriate levels. A community operating a waterworks must also consider that their liability insurance coverage may be affected by how it complies with the certification regulations.

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Ensuring Drinking Water and Wastewater Samples are Done on Time by an Accredited Laboratory

Under current legislation, each drinking water and wastewater operation regulated by SE responsible for submitting water samples results to the department on a schedule set out in the conditions of their permit to operate. Not submitting sample results or not submitting results on time means the waterworks is no longer in compliance with their permit to operate, and operators/owners may be subject to follow-up action.

Historically, Saskatchewan Health's Provincial Laboratory carried out all of the bacteriological and most chemical water sample analysis free of charge for regulated waterworks across the province. Other laboratories conducted water chemical tests for a fee. The Provincial Laboratory has implemented a fee-for-service policy and it now charges for all types of water sample tests including bacteriological.

The waterworks operators now find themselves in a competitive market situation when it comes to choosing which laboratory to do their water sample tests. The only condition SE places on the laboratories used by regulated waterworks is that they be accredited in accordance with regulatory requirements to carry out the specific water test. Please go to http://saskh2o.ca/WaterServices_WaterTesting.asp to view a list of accredited laboratories in Saskatchewan.

SE reminds drinking water and wastewater owners and operators to ensure the laboratory they choose to do their water samples is accredited to do that test, and that the laboratory sends sample bottles and correct labels out to the operation in a timely fashion. This will ensure samples are tested on time and results are submitted to SE as per the conditions set out in the operation's permit to operate.

Please work with your laboratory to ensure that it understands the sampling requirements set out by your permit, and that it sends the sample bottles to you on time. The owner or operator of a water/wastewater works must direct the laboratory to provide tests results to SE as soon as the results become available.