



Water Security Agency

Operator Certification Information for all Water and
Wastewater Works Owners and Operators

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EPB 437

Recommendations of the North Battleford Commission of Inquiry states training and/or continuing education is required to maintain certification as a water and/or wastewater operator. According to *The Waterworks and Sewage Works Regulations*, one Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is required to renew the certification. Training and/or continuing education should be provided by credible organizations and must have CEUs assigned. Ten hours of training is required for one CEU credit. Continuing education is available through a number of workshops or events held throughout the province. Trainers are listed in the following document: <http://www.saskh2o.ca/pdf/epb436.pdf>.

Ensuring water and wastewater samples are submitted in a timely manner is important for the safety of water supplies and protecting the environment. This document contains information regarding sample submission and analysis.

Operator Certification

As of July 15, 2005, owners of a waterworks and/or sewage works must ensure the operation, maintenance and repair of these works is under the direction of an operator certified at facility class level. In these cases, a facility's main operator must be appropriately certified at facility class level in any one or all of the following categories where applicable:

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

In addition, the Water Security Agency (WSA) strongly encourages facilities to have a back-up operator to the main operator, or have arrangements with a similarly certified operator to take over after hours or in case of vacation, illness or loss of the main operator for any reason. Please note that facilities that are classified as "hygienic use" do not require a certified operator.

The Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Standards December, 2016 and the Operator Certification Program Guide explain the criteria an operator needs to meet to become certified. The WSA has developed an option for a regional or contract operator. The publication *Regional/Contract Operator* also explains how communities can share a certified operator. The publication *Water and Wastewater Training and Examinations in Saskatchewan, EPB 436*, lists the agencies that provide training, workshops and examination sittings for water and wastewater operators. Please visit the website, <http://www.saskh2o.ca/foroperators.asp>, for an electronic copy of these documents or call 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 examination and acquired the appropriate work experience, a certification application needs to be completed and submitted to the Operator Certification Board (OCB). An OCB brochure and certification application is available on the Sask.H2O website under Education and Training. Further information is also available from the OCB website: <http://saskocb.ca/>.

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 level. A community operating a waterworks must also consider that their liability insurance coverage may be affected by how the community complies with the certification regulations.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Sample Analysis

Each drinking water and wastewater operation regulated by the WSA is responsible for submitting water sample results to the agency on a schedule set out in their Permit to Operate. Not submitting sample results or not submitting sample 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 compliance action.

WSA reminds drinking water and wastewater owners and operators to ensure the laboratory they choose to analyze their samples is accredited to do that test and that the laboratory sends sampling bottles and correct labels out to the operation in a timely fashion. Laboratories used by water and wastewater facility owners must be accredited in accordance with regulatory requirements to perform specific tests.

Please go to http://www.saskh2o.ca/WaterServices_WaterTesting.asp to view a list of accredited laboratories.

