



FACT SHEET

Becoming An Operator-In-Training

What's stopping you from becoming a certified operator?

Wastewater and drinking water system operators are front-line environmental professionals that ensure the quality of Kentucky's water resources and protect the public's health. Only operators that are certified by the Kentucky Certification and Licensing Branch can be in responsible charge of a wastewater or drinking water system.

To become a certified operator, an individual must qualify for and then pass a state-administered certification examination. On Feb. 5, 2010, the certification program's regulations were amended to allow individuals that did not yet have the required experience to take the exam early and become an Operator in Training (OIT).

Additional information regarding the operator certification program and the required application forms may be obtained by visiting the program's Web site at dca.ky.gov/certification.

If you have questions, please contact the Certification and Licensing Program by calling 502-564-0323 or e-mailing envhelp@ky.gov.



Why Become An OIT?

- You can become part of an important profession that makes a difference in the Commonwealth.
- By becoming an OIT, you can demonstrate to your employers that you have advanced skills and knowledge. This can also open the door to future salary increases.
- Some locations are beginning to experience a shortage of operators as the existing workforce reaches retirement age. As an OIT, you will be well-positioned to compete for these jobs.



Who Can Be An OIT?

- Anyone can apply for an entry-level OIT as long as he or she has a high school diploma or equivalent.
- An individual with an active certification license can apply for an OIT license that is one level higher and of the same type as the certification that the individual currently holds.



How Does Someone Become An OIT?

- OITs must pass the appropriate operator certification exam and work under the responsible charge of a mentor.
- To apply for the exam, individuals must submit the following to the Certification and Licensing Branch: the Education and Experience Documentation Form, the Registration Form for Exams and Training, the appropriate fee and a letter from the applicant's mentor.
- The letter from the mentor must include:
 - ⇒ A commitment to oversee the applicant's work after the applicant becomes an OIT;
 - ⇒ A commitment to mentor the applicant as long as the applicant is under the mentor's direct responsible charge;
 - ⇒ Verification that the mentor is not currently mentoring any other OITs; and
 - ⇒ Confirmation that the mentor holds a certification license that is equal to or greater than the certification level required to serve in primary responsibility of the facility where the mentor and prospective OIT works.



Can An OIT Be in Responsible Charge?

- A Wastewater Treatment Class I-OIT who operates a wastewater treatment plant owned by the operator that serves only one residence may have primary responsibility for that plant.
- All other OITs may not be in responsible charge of a facility unless they hold an additional certification license that does not have an OIT designation.