



# How to Become a Certified Solid Waste System Operator

## Solid Waste Certification Regulations

### [401 KAR 45:090](#)

Section 1—Applicability

Section 3—General Provisions for Landfills

Section 4—General Provisions for Landfarm and Composting Facilities

Section 5—Application for Certification

Section 6—Training Course Requirements

Section 7—Training and Examinations

Section 8—Education and Equivalencies

Sections 9 and 10—Issuance of a Certificate

Section 11—Interim Operators

Section 12—Fees

### [401 KAR 47:070](#)

Section 1—Definitions

Section 2—Applicability

Section 3—General Provisions for Landfills

Section 4—General Provisions for Landfarming Facilities

Section 5—Application for Certification

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Section 9—Compliance Dates

Section 10—Revocation of Certificate

Section 11—Operator Qualifications: Education and Equivalencies



## Program Overview

The Solid Waste Certification Program, administered by the Division of Compliance Assistance, is required by regulation. Certification is obtained by meeting minimum education and experience requirements, submitting the appropriate forms and fee and by passing the certification examination.

There are four types of solid waste certification. They are landfill operator, landfill manager, landfarm operator and compost operator. There is also the option to have a combination landfill manager/operator license.



## Regulations Pertaining to Operator Certification

Regulations pertaining to the certification of solid waste operators are located in [401 KAR 45:090](#) and [401 KAR 47:070](#).



## Who Must Comply

[KRS 224.40-605](#) requires the cabinet to promulgate administrative regulations that establish standards and a certification program for operators of waste sites or facilities.



## Requirements

The requirements for each solid waste certification type are located in [401 KAR 45:090](#) and [401 KAR 47:070](#). The tables listed on page two are intended to be a supplement to the regulation.



## Procedures for Applying for Certification

[401 KAR 45:090](#) and [401 KAR 47:070](#) establish application and examination procedures for becoming certified. Applicants must submit an [Application for Certification](#) as well as a [Registration Form for Exams and Training](#). The required fee must be submitted with the forms. The fees are listed on the bottom of the [Registration Form for Exams and Training](#). For a schedule of training events and examination dates check the program's [Website](#).

Certification fees are nonrefundable. Please make sure that you meet the minimum education and experience requirements prior to submitting an application to the certification program.

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## How to Become a Certified Solid Waste Operator—Continued

### Education and Experience Requirements by Certification Type

Type	Education	Experience
<b>Landfill Manager or Landfill Manager/Operator Combo</b>	High school diploma or GED is required.	<p>(3)(a) Applicants for landfill manager shall have completed high school (by graduation or by obtaining an equivalency certificate) and shall have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A minimum of two (2) years administrative experience in a related field (i.e., waste management, wastewater treatment, etc.); or</li> <li>2. A minimum of two (2) years of postsecondary education; or</li> <li>3. A minimum of two (2) years of a combination of experience in a related field and postsecondary education.</li> </ol> <p>(b) If an applicant for landfill manager does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection, the cabinet may consider the qualifications of the applicant on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<b>Landfill Operator</b>	High school diploma or GED is required.	<p>(2)(a) Applicants for landfill operator shall have completed high school (by graduation or by obtaining an equivalency certificate) and shall have a minimum of one (1) year of experience at a landfill similar to the category of landfill for which certification is sought.</p> <p>(b) If an applicant for landfill operator does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection, the cabinet may consider the number of years of experience in operating a landfill or experience in a related field (i.e., heavy equipment operator, road construction, surface mining, etc.) in determining eligibility for examination on a year-for-year basis.</p>
<b>Landfarm Operator</b>	High school diploma or GED is required.	<p>(4)(a) Applicants for landfarming operator shall have completed high school (by graduation or by obtaining an equivalency certificate) and shall have a minimum of one (1) year of experience at a landfarming facility.</p> <p>(b) If an applicant for landfarming operator does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection, the cabinet may consider the number of years of experience in operating a landfarming facility or experience in a related field (i.e., waste water treatment, water treatment, etc.) in determining eligibility for examination on a year for year basis.</p>
<b>Compost Operator</b>	High school diploma or GED is required.	<p>(3)(a) Applicants for landfarming or composting operator shall have completed high school, by graduation or by obtaining an equivalency certificate, and shall have a minimum of one (1) year of experience at a landfarming or composting facility.</p> <p>(b) If an applicant for landfarming or composting operator does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection, the cabinet may consider the number of years of experience in operating a landfarming facility or experience in a related field such as wastewater treatment or water treatment in determining eligibility for examination on a year-for-year basis.</p>

Additional information regarding the operator certification program may be obtained by visiting the program's website at [dca.ky.gov/certification](http://dca.ky.gov/certification).

You may also contact the Certification and Licensing Program at 502-564-0323 or 800-926-8111.

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