



# Applying for a Water Treatment, Distribution or Bottled Water System Certification

## Program Overview

The Kentucky operator certification program 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 multiple levels of water treatment, distribution system and bottled water system operator certifications. In order to qualify to take a Kentucky Water Operator Certification examination, an applicant must meet the experience and education requirements appropriate for that particular certification level.

## What Regulations Govern Operator Certification?

Regulations pertaining to the certification of water treatment, distribution system and bottled water system operators are located in [401 KAR Chapter 11](#). All regulation governing operator certification and facility staffing can be found on OCP's regulation page at <http://bit.ly/KY-OCP-regulations>.

## Who Must Comply?

KRS 223.210 requires that a person shall not be in direct responsible charge for the operation of a water treatment plant or water distribution system unless the operator has passed an examination prescribed by the cabinet.

[401 KAR 8:030](#) requires that each public water system shall operate its water treatment plant, distribution system and bottled water system under the supervision of a certified operator who is in direct responsible charge of the system.

## Requirements

The requirements for each water treatment, distribution system and bottled water system certification level are located in [401 KAR 11:040](#). The tables listed on page two are intended to be a supplement to the regulation.

## Procedures for Applying for Certification

[401 KAR 11:050](#) establishes application and examination procedures for becoming certified. Applicants must submit an Education and Experience Documentation Form as well as a Registration Form for Exams and Training. The schedule of training events, examination dates and fees are located on the program's Web site at <http://eec.ky.gov/ocp>.

# Certifying Professionals



# DRINKING WATER

### Water Treatment System Operator Certification Requirements

Certification Level	Education	Experience
Limited	Minimal level of education is not required.	Minimal level of experience is not required. (Limited is only available for operators working for a school water treatment plant or for a semipublic water supply.)
Class I-AD	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of experience operating a Class I-AD or higher public water system.
Class II-A	High school diploma or GED is required.	Two (2) years of experience operating a public water treatment plant, with six (6) months of that experience in a Class II-A, III-A or IV-A treatment plant.
Class III-A	High school diploma or GED is required.	Three (3) years of experience operating a public water treatment plant, with one (1) year of that experience in a Class II-A, III-A, or IV-A water treatment plant.
Class IV-A	Baccalaureate degree in engineering, science, or equivalent from an accredited college or university.	One (1) year of experience operating a Class III-A or Class IV-A water treatment plant.
Class I-BD	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of experience operating a Class I-BD or higher public water system.
Class II-BD	High school diploma or GED is required.	Two (2) years of experience operating a public water system, with (6) months of that experience in a Class I-AD, II-BD, or higher treatment plant.
Class III-B	High school diploma or GED is required.	Three (3) years of experience operating a public water treatment plant, with one (1) year of that experience in a Class II-A, II-BD, III-A, III-B, IV-A, or IV-B water treatment plant.
Class IV-B	Baccalaureate degree in engineering, science, or equivalent from an accredited college or university.	One (1) year of experience operating a Class III-A, III-B, IV-A, or IV-B water treatment plant.

### Water Distribution System Operator Certification Requirements

Certification Level	Education	Experience
Class I-D	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of experience operating a distribution system.
Class II-D	High school diploma or GED is required.	Two (2) years of experience operating a distribution system, with six (6) months of that experience in a Class II-D, III-D, or IV-D distribution system.
Class III-D	High school diploma or GED is required.	Three (3) years of experience operating a distribution system, with one (1) year of that experience in a Class II-D, III-D or IV-D distribution system.
Class IV-D	Baccalaureate degree in engineering, science, or equivalent from an accredited college or university.	One (1) year of experience operating a Class III-D or IV-D distribution system.

### Bottled Water System Operator Certification Requirements

Certification Level	Education	Experience
BW	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of experience operating a bottled water system.

