

Applying for a Wastewater Treatment and/or Collection 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 wastewater treatment and collection system operator certifications. In order to qualify to take a Kentucky Wastewater 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 224.73-110 requires that a person shall not be in direct responsible charge for the operation of a sewage system or a portion of a system unless the operator has passed an examination prescribed by the cabinet.

[401 KAR 5:010](#) 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 wastewater treatment and collection system certification level are located in [401 KAR 11:030](#). 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



Wastewater Treatment 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 wastewater treatment plant and collection system.)
Class I-OIT	High school diploma or GED is required.	Experience is not required.
Class I	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant shall be required.
Class II	High school diploma or GED is required.	Two (2) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant shall be required.
Class III	High school diploma or GED is required.	Three (3) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant with one (1) year of that experience in a wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity greater than 50,000 gallons per day shall be required.
Class IV	Baccalaureate degree in engineering, science or equivalent is required.	At least five (5) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater treatment plant shall be required. Three (3) years of the required experience shall be in a wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity greater than two (2) million gallons per day. At least one (1) year of primary responsibility in a wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity greater than two (2) million gallons per day shall be required.

Wastewater Collection Certification Requirements

Certification Level	Education	Experience
Class I-OIT	High school diploma or GED is required.	Experience is not required.
Class I	High school diploma or GED is required.	One (1) year of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system shall be required.
Class II	High school diploma or GED is required.	Two (2) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system shall be required.
Class III	High school diploma or GED is required.	Three (3) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system with one (1) year of that experience in a wastewater collection system that transports wastewater to a treatment plant with a design capacity of greater than 50,000 gallons per day shall be required.
Class IV	Baccalaureate degree in engineering, environmental technology; biological, physical or chemical sciences or equivalent is required.	At least five (5) years of acceptable operation of a wastewater collection system shall be required. Three (3) years of the required experience shall be in a wastewater collection system that transports wastewater to a treatment plant with a design capacity of greater than two (2) million gallons per day.