



# Applying for a Solid Waste Certification

## Program Overview

The Solid Waste Certification Program, administered by the 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 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 will need to submit an Application for Certification and fee to the cabinet through the [Kentucky Online Gateway](#) system. The schedule of training events, examination dates and fees are located on the program's Web site at <https://bit.ly/KY-OCP-SolidWaste>.

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.

**SOLID WASTE**

Certifying **Professionals**



# Applying for a Solid Waste Certification - Cont.

## Education and Experience Requirements by Certification Type

Type	Education	Experience
Landfill Operator	High School diploma or GED is required.	(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. (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 a related field (i.e. heavy equipment operator, road construction, surface mining, etc.) in determining eligibility for examination on a year-for-year basis.
Landfill Manager or Landfill Manager/Operator Combo	High school diploma or GED is required.	(3)(a) Applicants for landfill manager shall have completed high school (by graduation or by obtaining an equivalency certificate) and shall have: 1. A minimum of two (2) years administrative experience in a related field (i.e. waste management, wastewater treatment, etc.); or 2. A minimum of two (2) years of postsecondary education; or 3. A minimum of two (2) years of a combination of experience in a related field and postsecondary education. (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.
Landfarm Operator	High school diploma or GED is required.	(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. (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., wastewater treatment, water treatment, etc.) in determining eligibility for examination on a year-for-year basis.
Compost Operator	High school diploma or GED is required.	(3)(a) Applicants for 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 composting or landfarming facility. (b) If an applicant for compost 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 composting or landfarming facility or experience in a related field (i.e., wastewater treatment, water treatment, etc.) in determining eligibility for examination on a year-for-year basis.