



Waterworks Operator Certification— Reciprocity

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How do I apply for reciprocity?

Please visit our [Operator Certification webpage](#) for instructions on accessing the Waterworks operator certification application. If you aren't already registered for [Secure Access Washington \(SAW\)](#), you'll find instructions on the OpCert webpage for registering and accessing the application.

I am currently certified in another state; will Washington grant me reciprocity for my existing certifications?

Here are some basic criteria to help determine whether you can apply for reciprocity for your current water operator certifications.

- ◆ Have you taken and passed a standardized water operator certification exam administered by Water Professionals International (WPI) [formerly known as the Association of Boards of Certification, ABC] for the certification level(s) you are applying for? (gowpi.org)
- ◆ Are you currently certified in your state in good standing and with no restrictions?
- ◆ Do you meet the Washington minimum education and experience requirements for the certification level(s) you are applying for? (Minimum education and experience requirements are in [WAC 246-292-060](#).)

I passed a standardized exam by ABC/WPI for the certification level(s) that I currently hold, but did not pass them in the state I am currently certified in. Can I still get reciprocity with Washington?

As long as you meet the other reciprocity criteria in [WAC 246-292-075](#).

My state uses their own certification exams that are not the ABC/WPI exams. Can I still get reciprocity with Washington?

Not at this time. We are not able to evaluate other states' exams to determine if they are equivalent to the ABC/WPI water operator certification exams. If your state has PSI/AMP testing locations, you may apply to take our exams in your state to get certified in Washington. Please check [PSI/AMP's website](#) to see testing locations availability/hours of operation.

How long does it take to receive approval for reciprocity?

The length of time for processing reciprocity applications depends on a few factors.

- ◆ Are you applying for reciprocity from a certifying authority outside the United States?
- ◆ How long will it take your current certification program to respond to our request for information?
- ◆ Are you submitting out-of-state water treatment documentation?

- ◆ Are you providing documentation regarding post-secondary education? (Only required for Waterworks certification Levels 3 and 4, if not substituting excess experience.)

We process certification applications on a weekly basis. Applying on a Monday or Tuesday provides our staff more time to address any of the factors listed above.

If everything is in order and with no delays or challenges and you are approved for reciprocity, you may receive your new Waterworks certificate(s) within two weeks of applying. Please allow an additional two weeks before attempting to access your online Waterworks validation card.

What if I don't qualify for reciprocity?

If you do not qualify for reciprocity, but do meet our minimum education and experience requirements for Waterworks certification, you can apply or convert your certification application to an exam application. We use WPI's standardized exams; they use PSI's national testing centers. Please check [PSI/AMP's website](#) for testing locations and hours of operation.

Water treatment operator certification—submitting out-of-state treatment experience

Whether you are applying for reciprocity or for a Waterworks certification exam for water treatment plant operator certification, you need to submit additional documentation about each water treatment facility you are claiming experience for.

Please note: In-line chlorination, in-line fluoridation, or chemicals added for corrosion control **by themselves** are not considered water treatment in Washington. If those chemicals are added **in addition to** water treatment technologies, they add complexity points to the water treatment classification.

If your experience is not considered "water treatment" experience, you may still qualify to take a Water Treatment Operator certification exam as an Operator-in-Training, if you meet the minimum education, experience, or experience substitution requirements in [WAC 246-292-060](#).

If you are applying for Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) certification and you use water treatment experience gained from an out-of-state water treatment plant, you need to supply the following documentation with your application:

- ◆ Completed and signed [Treatment Plant Rating Criteria worksheet](#).
- ◆ Facility process flow diagram.
- ◆ List of chemicals used.

Post-secondary education

If you are submitting post-secondary education (college credits or Continuing Education Units [CEUs]), you need to provide this information in an electronic format during the application process. You can use post-secondary education to meet the minimum education requirement (Waterworks certification Levels 3 and 4) or to substitute for water-related experience.

To use post-secondary education to substitute for water-related experience, it must meet the definition of "relevant excess education" in [WAC 246-292-010\(44\)](#).

All post-secondary education must include the following:

- ◆ Your full name.
- ◆ The name and location/contact information for the college/university or training organization.
- ◆ Courses taken and credits awarded.
- ◆ Name and date of any certificates or degrees awarded.

For more information

For other questions please email the Waterworks Operator Certification Program at dwopcert@doh.wa.gov with **Reciprocity** in the subject line.

Our publications are online at doh.wa.gov/drinkingwater.



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.