



Waterworks Operator Certification— Reciprocity

3/25/2020

Frequently Asked Questions

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

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

- Have you taken and passed a standardized waterworks operator certification exam administered by the [Association of Boards of Certification](#) for the certification level(s) you are applying for?
- Are you currently certified in your state and in good standing 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 our rule at [WAC 246-292-060](#)).

2. I have passed an ABC exam 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 our rule [WAC 246-292-075](#).

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

Not at this time. We currently do not have the staff to evaluate other states' exams to determine if they are equivalent to the ABC waterworks 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 at [goamp.com](#) to see testing location availability/hours of operation.

4. How do I apply for reciprocity?

Please visit our webpage [doh.wa.gov/opcert](#) to access our waterworks operator certification application. If you aren't already registered for Secure Access Washington (SAW), we posted instructions for registration and accessing the application.

Waterworks operator certification applications are processed weekly. Typically, newly issued certificates are emailed on Friday. We are able to process quickly, as long as we receive all required and properly completed documents electronically with your application. Here are a few types of documentation typically needed in order to apply for reciprocity or to take a waterworks operator certification examination:

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

- A completed and signed Washington [Treatment Plant Rating Criteria worksheet](#).
- A process flow diagram for the facility accurately detailing each process component.
- A list of chemicals used at the facility during your employment.
- If you are applying for waterworks distribution or water treatment levels 3 or 4 and submitting post-secondary education (college credits or Continuing Education Units [CEUs]), you will need to submit a copy of your college transcript or training certificates in electronic format with your application. The college transcript does not need to be a stamped official copy, but it must have all required information—your name, college/university name, location, etc.

If you have further questions or need more information, please email the Waterworks Operator Certification Program at dwopcert@doh.wa.gov with "Reciprocity" as the subject line.