



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATORS

**EXAMINATION INFORMATION**

- ▶ You may apply for and take any examination(s) without meeting the experience requirements prior to taking the examination(s).
- ▶ **In addition to the exam provider fee, DEP charges \$35 per exam session which is charged when you are eligible to apply for certification, or when you sit for your 5<sup>th</sup> exam session.**
- ▶ Approximately two weeks before an examination, qualified applicants will receive a exam notification letter from the exam provider.
- ▶ Examination results will be mailed to the applicant approximately 15 days after the exam.
- ▶ A passed examination score has no expiration date.

**Part 1: Applicant Information**

Complete all information as requested, including your CLIENT ID, if DEP has assigned one to you.

Part 2: Requested Class	Part 3: Test Site
Choose class based on the size system where you are employed or where you want to work, (see definition of classes below).	Choose only one testing site for the examination.

**Part 4: Certification Examinations (Mark appropriate boxes)****Water Examinations**

PART 1 – GENERAL EXAMINATION	Required for Class A, B, C, or D certification. 1. Class A, B, or C certification requires Technology Specific Examinations applicable to your system. Class D does not, unless your system is using a specific treatment technology.  2. Class Dc and Dn certification cannot be upgraded without retesting. <b>OPERATORS MUST VERIFY THAT THEIR FACILITY QUALIFIES AS A Dc or Dn WITH THEIR DEP INSPECTOR.</b>
PART 2 – TECHNOLOGY SPECIFIC EXAMINATION	Applicable to your system – Check System Permit.
CLASS E – DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM EXAMINATION	Distribution System certification. Technology Specific Examinations 7 thru 14 (if applicable to your distribution system).
Dc – SMALL SYSTEM EXAMINATION	Groundwater source that serves less than 500 individuals or 150 connections and requires disinfection.
Dc – SMALL SYSTEM EXAMINATION	Groundwater source that serves less than 500 individuals or 150 connections and does not require treatment.

**Wastewater Examinations**

PART 1 – GENERAL EXAMINATION	Required for Class A, B, C, or D certification.
PART 2 – TECHNOLOGY SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS	Applicable to your system - Check System Permit.
CLASS E4 – SATELLITE COLLECTION	Satellite collection system with a pump station(s). Single entity owner collection system certification. This certification cannot be upgraded without retesting.

Guidelines on the average time to take each examination are in brackets next to each examination name on the test registration form. These are suggested time limits only. Examination sessions are limited to four (4) hours. Applicants may register for up to eight exams per session.

***If you anticipate the need for a testing accommodation due to a disability, your written request must be submitted with your registration form. Written requests must contain the following: (1) a letter from a professional who has made an assessment of your disability, describing the way in which you would be best accommodated, and (2) a letter from you describing the requested accommodation. If you have questions, please contact the Board at 717-787-5236 or through PA AT&T Relay Services at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD).***

For further information on the Operator Certification Program and the process for applying for certification, please refer to the Drinking Water and Wastewater Information Center at [www.depweb.state.pa.us/operatorcenter](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/operatorcenter).

## DEFINITIONS OF CLASSES

### WASTEWATER

Class A – Serving an average of more than 5 million gallons per day.

Class B – Serving an average of greater than 1 million gallons per day but less than or equal to 5 million gallons per day.

Class C – Serving an average of greater than 100,000 gallons per day but less than or equal to 1 million gallons per day.

Class D – serving an average of less than or equal to 100,000 gallons per day.

Class E – Satellite collection system with a pump station (combined with subclassification 4)

#### **Class E**

► **Collection system** – A system of pipelines or conduits, pumping stations and force or gravity mains used for collecting and conveying wastes to a point of treatment and disposal.

► **Satellite collection system** – A wastewater system consisting only of collection facilities with at least one pump station, which is designed to convey in excess of 2000 gallons per day of untreated wastewater to a wastewater system owned by a different entity.

### WATER

Class A – Serving an average of more than 5 million gallons per day.

Class B – Serving an average of greater than 1 million gallons per day but less than or equal to 5 million gallons per day.

Class C – Serving an average of greater than 100,000 gallons per day but less than or equal to 1 million gallons per day.

Class D – Serving an average of less than or equal to 100,000 gallons per day.

Class E – Distribution and consecutive water systems.

Class Dc- Serving no more than 500 individuals or having no more than 150 connections, where the source of water for the system is exclusively groundwater and requires only disinfection.

Class Dn- Serving no more than 500 individuals or having no more than 150 connections, where the source of water for the system is exclusively groundwater and does not requires treatment.

**Operators taking the Dc or Dn exam must verify their water system qualifies as a Dc or Dn with their DEP inspector, prior to taking these exams.**

#### **Class E**

► **Consecutive water system** – A public water system that obtains all of its water from another public water system and resells the water to a person, provides treatment to meet a primary maximum contaminant level or provides drinking water to an interstate carrier. The term does not include bottled water and bulk water systems. If treatment is provided the examination for the type of treatment utilized must also be taken.

► **Distribution system** – Pipelines, appurtenances, devices and facilities that convey potable water under pressure to customers. If treatment is provided the examination for the type of treatment utilized must also be taken.

## DEFINITIONS OF SUBCLASSES

### WASTEWATER

**Subclassification 1 (Activated Sludge)** – A treatment technology that mechanically introduces air into wastewater to achieve microbiological suspended growth treatment such as extended aeration, sequential batch reactors, contact stabilization, conventional, step feed or oxidation ditch.

**Subclassification 2 (Fixed Film)** – A wastewater treatment technology that uses a fixed contact media to achieve treatment such as trickling filters and rotating biological contactors.

**Subclassification 3 (Treatment Ponds & Lagoons)** – A wastewater treatment technology that utilizes a pond, lagoon or wetlands with anaerobic or facultative biological processes for the treatment of wastewater and meets the following criteria: (i) A design hydraulic detention time in the treatment process of 15 days or greater; (ii) A biological treatment process that does not have any return activated sludge system and (iii) A biological treatment process that is impacted by diurnal fluctuations as a result of photosynthesis.

**Subclassification 4 (Single Entity Collection Systems)** – A wastewater collection system consisting only of collection facilities with at least one pump station which is designed to convey in excess of 2000 gallons per day of untreated wastewater to a wastewater treatment system owned by the owner of the collection system.

**Subclassification 5 (Laboratory Supervisor)** - An individual having the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to supervise laboratory procedures and the reporting of analytical data for an environmental laboratory operated by a wastewater system in accordance with industry, State and Federal standards. An operator must already be certified in wastewater treatment to add this subclassification.

## WATER

**Subclassification 1 (Conventional Filtration)** – A series of processes for the purpose of substantial particulate removal consisting of coagulation, flocculation, clarification and granular media filtration. The clarification step must be a solid/liquid separation process where accumulated solids are removed during this separate component of the treatment system.

**Subclassification 2 (Direct Filtration)** – A series of processes implemented for the purpose of substantial particulate removal consisting of coagulation, and filtration. The term includes flocculation after coagulation, but does not include sedimentation.

**Subclassification 3 (Diatomaceous Earth Filtration)** – A process for the purpose of substantial particulate removal, in which a precoat cake of diatomaceous earth filter media is deposited on a support membrane (septum) and, while the water is filtered by passing through the cake on the septum, additional filter media, known as body feed, is continuously added to the feed water, to maintain the permeability of the filter cake.

**Subclassification 4 (Slow Sand Filtration)** – A process for the purpose of substantial particulate removal by physical and biological mechanisms during the passage of raw water through a bed of sand at low velocity, generally less than 0.4 meters per hour.

**Subclassification 5 (Cartridge or Bag Filtration)** – A process for the purpose of substantial particulate removal by straining with bag or cartridge filters manufactured of various materials and pore sizes.

**Subclassification 6 (Membrane Filtration)** – A pressure or vacuum driven separation process in which particulate matter larger than one micrometer is rejected by an engineered barrier, primarily through a size-exclusion mechanism, and which has a measurable removal efficiency of a target organism that can be verified through the application of a direct integrity test. The term includes the common membrane technologies of microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration and reverse osmosis.

**Subclassification 7 (Corrosion Control & Sequestering)** – A water treatment process designed to mitigate the adverse effects of corrosion in drinking water.

**Subclassification 8 (Chemical Addition)** – A water treatment process designed to improve the quality of the water being treated through the addition of chemicals such as lime, soda ash, caustic soda and permanganate.

**Subclassification 9 (Ion Exchange & Green Sand)** – A water treatment process such as greensand filtration, ion exchange, or activated alumina designed to improve the quality of water being treated by removal of inorganic constituents.

**Subclassification 10 (Aeration & Activated Carbon Adsorption):**

Aeration – A water treatment process designed to improve the quality of water being treated by introducing air or oxygen into water to remove undesirable dissolved gases, to remove volatile organic compounds or to oxidize inorganic compounds so they can be removed as particulates.

Activated Carbon Adsorption – A water treatment process designed to improve the quality of water being treated by using activated granular or powdered carbon to remove specific organic chemical compounds by adsorption.

**Subclassification 11 (Gaseous Chlorine Disinfection)** – A water treatment process designed to inactivate pathogenic organisms from water being treated utilizing gaseous chlorine.

**Subclassification 12 (Nongaseous Chemical Disinfection)** – A water treatment process designed to inactivate pathogenic organisms from water being treated utilizing nongaseous chemical elements or compounds.

**Subclassification 13 (Ultraviolet Disinfection)** – A water treatment process that inactivates pathogenic organisms using light with a wavelength range of 1000 to 4000 angstroms.

**Subclassification 14 (Ozonation)** – A water treatment process designed to inactivate pathogenic organisms from water being treated utilizing ozone.

**Subclassification 15 – Laboratory Supervisor** – An individual having the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to supervise laboratory procedures and the reporting of analytical data for an environmental laboratory operated by a drinking water system in accordance with industry, State and Federal standards. An operator must already be certified in drinking water treatment to add this subclassification.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
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OPERATOR CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION REGISTRATION  
PA Certification to Operate Water or Wastewater Systems

PRINT CLEARLY

Part 1: Applicant Information							
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MIDDLE INITIAL			
STREET – PO BOX:			HOME PHONE NUMBER (    )	CLIENT ID (if you have one)			
CITY	COUNTY	STATE	ZIP CODE	SOCIAL SECURITY # (not needed if you have client id)			
Part 2: Requested Class:		Part 3: Examination Date & Site		EMAIL ADDRESS			
A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/>		August 11, 2021 – New Kensington, PA					
Part 4: Examinations							
<input type="checkbox"/> WATER		<input type="checkbox"/> WASTEWATER					
<b>WATER EXAMINATIONS</b>		<b>WASTEWATER EXAMINATIONS</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> CLASS E – (WE) Distribution Systems Examination [60 minutes] can be combined with A,B,C,D or be a standalone cert.		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASS E – (WWE4) Satellite Collection System with Pump Station/Single Entity Owner Collection System Examination [75 minutes] can be combined with A,B,C,D or be a standalone cert.					
STANDALONE CERT ONLY – DO NOT TAKE WITH ANY OTHER EXAMS		<input type="checkbox"/> PART 1 – GENERAL EXAMINATION (WWGEN) [75 minutes] <b>MUST BE TAKEN WITH SUBCLASS(ES)</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Dc – Groundwater source that serves less than 500 individuals or 150 connections and requires only disinfection (WDC) [90 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Dn – Groundwater source that serves less than 500 individuals or 150 connections – no treatment [75 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> PART 1 – GENERAL EXAMINATION (WGEN) [30 minutes] <b>MUST BE TAKEN WITH SUBCLASS(ES)</b>		PART 2 – TECHNOLOGY SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS					
PART 2 – TECHNOLOGY SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS:		<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 1 – Activated sludge (WW1) [45 minutes]					
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 1 - Conventional filtration (W1) [60 minutes]		<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 2 – Fixed film treatment (WW2) [30 minutes]					
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 2 - Direct filtration (W2) [45 minutes]		<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 3 – Treatment ponds and lagoons (WW3) [30 minutes]					
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 3 - Diatomaceous earth filtration (W3) [30 minutes]		<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 5 – Laboratory Supervisor (WW5) [30 minutes]					
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 4 - Slow sand filtration (W4) [30 minutes]		<p><b>Guidelines on the average time to take each examination are in brackets next to each examination name. Examination sessions are limited to four (4) hours. Applicants should not register for more examinations than can be completed in the allocated 4 hours.</b></p> <p><i>If you anticipate the need for a testing accommodation due to a disability, your written request must be submitted with your registration form. Written requests must contain the following: (1) a letter from a professional who has made an assessment of your disability, describing the way in which you would be best accommodated, and (2) a letter from you describing the requested accommodation. If you have questions, please contact the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators at 717-787-5236 or through PA AT&amp;T Relay Services at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD).</i></p>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 5 - Cartridge or bag filtration (W5) [30 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 6 - Membrane filtration (W6) [30 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 7 - Corrosion control and sequestering (W7) [30 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 8 - Chemical addition (W8) [90 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 9 - Ion exchange and greensand (W9) [45 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 10 - Aeration and activated carbon adsorption (W10) [45 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 11 - Gaseous chlorine disinfection (W11) [60 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 12 - Non-gaseous chemical disinfection (W12) [60 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 13 - Ultraviolet disinfection (W13) [30 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 14 - Ozonation (W14) [30 minutes]							
<input type="checkbox"/> Subclass 15 - Laboratory Supervisor [30 minutes]							
<b>Send This Completed Registration to:</b> Pennsylvania Rural Water Association 138 West Bishop Street Bellefonte, PA 16823 Phone: (814) 353-9302, ext. 108; Fax: (814) 353-9341 E-Mail: certexam@prwa.com <b>Registration Deadline: July 9, 2021</b>					I hereby certify that all information in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any information provided by me that is not accurate may be grounds for ineligibility for certification to operate a Water or Wastewater System.		
					_____ Signature of Applicant		

