

# Water Treatment

## Minimum Qualifications for Examination/Certification

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Minimum Qualifications for Certification
T1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High School or GED*</li> </ul>	Successful completion of the <b>Grade T1</b> operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification
T2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High School or GED*</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>One 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> course of specialized training covering the fundamentals of drinking water treatment</li> </ul>	Successful completion of the <b>Grade T2</b> operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification
T3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High School or GED*</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Two 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> courses of specialized training; one of which is in the fundamentals of drinking water treatment <b>AND</b> a second course in either drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, or distribution</li> </ul>	Successful completion of the <b>Grade T3</b> operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, <b>AND:</b> <b>One year</b> of operator experience working as a certified T2 operator for a T2 facility or higher (may be substituted with (3) below) <b>AND:</b> <b>One additional year</b> of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1), (2) or (4) below)
T4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possession of a valid T3 certificate</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Three 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> courses of specialized training; two of which are in the fundamentals of drinking water treatment <b>AND</b> a third course in either drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, or distribution</li> </ul>	Successful completion of the <b>Grade T4</b> operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, <b>AND:</b> <b>One year</b> of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T3 operator certificate for a T3 facility or higher (may be substituted with (3) below) <b>AND:</b> <b>Three additional years</b> of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)
T5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possession of a valid T4 certificate</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Four 3-unit (or 36-hour)</u> course of specialized training; two of which are in the fundamentals of drinking water treatment <b>AND</b> two other courses in either drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, or distribution</li> </ul>	Successful completion of the <b>Grade T5</b> operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification, <b>AND:</b> <b>Two years</b> of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T4 operator certificate for a T4 facility or higher (no substitutions) <b>AND:</b> <b>Three additional years</b> of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)

\*High school/GED equivalency for **Grades 1 and 2 only** can be fulfilled with one year of experience as an operator of a facility that required an understanding of chemical feeds, hydraulic systems, or pumps. This must be verified with a copy of your utility's official job description for your position.

<p>Experience substitutions for certification, as referenced above.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A relevant degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Associate Degree or Certificate in Water or Wastewater Technology that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological science may be used to fulfill <b>1 year of general operator experience.</b></li> <li>b) Bachelor Degree in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental engineering, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill <b>1.5 years of general operator experience.</b></li> <li>c) Masters Degree in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill <b>2 years of general operator experience.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>2) A certified operator may substitute, on a day-for-day basis, experience gained while working with lead responsibility for water quality related projects or research (i.e., pilot plant).</li> <li>3) If an applicant has a Bachelor of Science or Master of Science Degree, completion of a comprehensive operator training program, pursuant to Section 63800 (h), may be substituted for the required experience.</li> <li>4) Experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment operator may be used to substitute up to 2 years of the general experience requirement. Wastewater treatment operator experience is credited on a two-for-one basis (2 months in wastewater = 1 month in drinking water).</li> </ol>
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