

Operator Certification Program

Examination Waiver

No person may operate a wastewater treatment plant in California unless that person has been certified by the Office of Operator Certification (OOC) as a wastewater treatment plant operator.

Persons who hold a valid, unexpired certificate issued by a certifying body may apply for an examination waiver in order to become certified by the OOC in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 26, section 3689. (The OOC will award qualifying experience credit to applicants who meet the requirements for an examination.)

Requirements for Examination Waiver

An applicant who holds a valid, unexpired certificate issued by a certifying body may receive an examination waiver if:

1. The experience, education, and examination requirements of the certifying body are comparable to the OOC's requirements;
2. The applicant meets the minimum education and qualifying experience requirements for the applicable grade level;
3. The applicant has passed a written examination, administered by the certifying body, that is comparable to the examination given by the OOC for the applicable grade of operator certification; and
4. The applicant completes an application for operator certification and pays the certification and examination waiver fees.

Applying for Examination Waiver

Submit the following items:

1. A complete [Examination Waiver application](#) with original signature;
2. A complete [Certification application](#) with original signature;
3. A copy of your valid, unexpired certificate issued by a certifying body; and
4. A check or money order for the appropriate application and certification fees plus an examination waiver fee of \$100 made payable to the "State Water Resources Control Board" to the address below:

**State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Operator Certification
P.O. Box 944212
1001 I Street, 17th Floor
Sacramento, CA 94244-2120**

(Note: Application, certification, and examination waiver fees are not refundable.)

Questions or Comments?

If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of Operator Certification by email at: OpcertProgram@waterboards.ca.gov or at (916) 341-5819, select #3.