

WATER CERTIFICATION CLASSES

CLASS TYPE	- 1 – FIRST CLASS	- 2 – SECOND CLASS	- 3 – THIRD CLASS	- 4 – FOURTH CLASS (VERY SMALL SYSTEMS)
- A - WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR	Serving more than 15,000 people	Serving 1,501 – 15,000 people	Serving 500 – 1,500 people	Ground water supply serving fewer than 500 people, with or without disinfection
- B - WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM OPERATOR	Treatment for surface water utilizing chemical coagulation, filtration, and disinfection.	Treatment for surface water not utilizing chemical coagulation	Ground water supply serving at least 500 people, with or without disinfection	
EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR FULLY CERTIFIED OPERATORS	2.5 years	2 years	1.5 year	1 year

Educational Requirement:	High school graduation, G.E.D certificate, or Job Service Certificate
Annual Renewal Fee Per Individual Certified (July 1 – June 30) invoices are mailed in April & due by June 30 for upcoming year	Renewal fees are \$30 per one or both A and B certificates, and \$40 per one or both C, D and E certificates

1. When an accurate population census is not available, the population served may be determined by multiplying the number of service connections by 2.5.
2. Facilities discharging to municipal facilities and facilities for removing sediment without a surface water discharge do not require a certified operator unless the municipality requires it.

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- C - WASTEWATER SYSTEM OPERATOR	Secondary and advanced (tertiary) treatment provided by: conventional activated sludge plants, biological nutrient removal plants, ammonia conversion processes, extended aeration activated sludge plants such as oxidation ditches and package plants, fixed-growth trickling filter and bio-disc plants; sequence batch reactors and/or other tertiary processes, such as effluent filtration and membrane bioreactor systems.	X	Secondary treatment provided by aerated lagoons or lagoons not utilizing artificial aeration.	X
- D - INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATOR	Industrial biological or physical-chemical treatment facility treating more than 1.0 mgd and/or employing one or more of the following: air flotation, air stripping, reverse osmosis, electrochemical treatment, activated sludge, anaerobic digestion, aerobic digestion, nutrient removal systems, tertiary treatment and chemical clarification	Industrial wastewater systems including biological treatment facilities treating less than 1.0 mgd or employing one or more of the following: clarification, filtration, constructed wetlands, carbon adsorption, ion exchange, disinfection, trickling filters, bio-disc systems, sequencing batch reactors, biological sand filters, membrane filtration and advanced onsite treatment and disposal systems described under Certification Class E2 requirements.	Industrial wastewater treatment systems employing one or more of the following: oil-water separation, grinding or comminutors, land surface disposal, neutralization (pH adjustment), aerated lagoons, onsite septic tank treatment systems with pressure dosed drainfields, siphon dosed drainfields and elevated sand mounds.	Industrial wastewater treatment systems including one or more of the following: detention ponds, sedimentation ponds, stabilization ponds, lagoons without mechanical mixing or aeration, septic systems treating the discharge from drinking water treatment systems and onsite treatment utilizing standard septic tanks and gravity drainfields.
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<p align="center">- E -</p> <p align="center">ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM OPERATOR</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p>On-site package biological wastewater treatment systems including conventional activated sludge, SBR, fixed film and extended aeration systems with discharge to groundwater. Must be a public sewage system and flow to the facility will generally be greater 5000 gpd.</p>	<p>On-site treatment systems discharging to groundwater including all Montana DEQ Level 2 systems, biological sand filters, intermittent sand filters, recirculating trickling filters and recirculating textile filters. Must be a public sewage system and flow to the facility will generally be greater 5000 gpd.</p>	<p>On-site septic tank primary treatment systems with complex or pumped sub-surface disposal. Includes pressure-dosed drainfields, siphon-dosed drainfields, elevated sand mound systems. Onsite septic tank primary treatment systems with simple sub-surface disposal by gravity drainfield. Must be a public sewage system and flow to the facility will generally be greater 5000 gpd.</p>
<p>EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR FULLY CERTIFIED OPERATORS</p>	<p align="center">2.5 years</p>	<p align="center">2 years</p>	<p align="center">1.5 year</p>	<p align="center">1 year</p>