

Minimum Qualifications for Water Treatment Examination/Certification JANUARY 2001

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Minimum Qualifications for Certification
T1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High School or GED* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful completion of the T1 exam
T2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High School or GED* AND ▪ One 3-unit (or One 36-hour) course of specialized training covering the fundamentals of drinking water treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful completion of the T2 exam
T3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High School or GED AND ▪ Two 3-unit (or two 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes one course covering the fundamentals of drinking water treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful completion of the T3 exam ▪ 1 year of operator experience working as a certified T2 operator for a T2 facility or higher (may be substituted for (3) below) AND ▪ 1 additional year 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"> ▪ Possession of a valid T3 certificate AND ▪ Three 3-unit (or three 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least 2 courses in drinking water treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful completion of the T4 exam ▪ 1 year of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T3 operator certificate, at a T3 facility or higher (may be substituted with (3) below) AND ▪ 3 additional years of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)
T5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possession of a valid T4 certificate AND ▪ Four 3-unit (or four 36-hour) courses of specialized training that includes at least 2 courses in drinking water treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful completion of the T5 exam ▪ 2 years of operator experience working as a shift or chief operator, while holding a valid T4 operator certificate, at a T4 facility or higher (no substitutions) AND ▪ 3 additional years of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator (may be substituted with (1) or (4) below)

*High school/GED equivalency for **Grades T1 and T2 ONLY** can be fulfilled with either successful completion of *Basic Small Water System Operations* course provided by the Department **OR 1 year** as an operator of a facility that required an understanding of chemical feeds, hydraulic systems, and pumps

Experience Substitutions for Certification, as referenced above:

(1) A degree earned at an accredited academic institution may be substituted as follows:

- (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 1 year of general operator experience
- (b) **Bachelor Degree** in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental engineering, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill 1.5 years of general operator experience
- (c) **Masters Degree** in biology, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, environmental engineering, microbiology, public health, and sanitary engineering may be used to fulfill 2 years of general operator experience

(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

(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

(4) Experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment operator (not an OIT) may be used to substitute up to 2 years of the experience requirement. Wastewater treatment operator experience is credited on a two-for-one basis (2 months in wastewater = 1 month in drinking water).