Drinking Water Distribution Minimum Requirements

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Eligibility Criteria for Certification
D1	• High School Diploma / GED Equivalency*****	• Pass the **Grade D1** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification.
D2	• High School Diploma / GED Equivalency***** • **One** 36-hour OR 3.6-continuing-education-unit (CEU) OR 3-college-semester-unit course of specialized training** in water supply principles. (**Water 140, 141, 150 or Water 151**)	• Pass the **Grade D2** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification.
D3	• Valid D2 certification • **Two** 36-hour OR 3.6-continuing-education-unit (CEU) OR 3-college-semester-unit courses of specialized training** that includes at least one course in water supply principles. (**Water 140, 141, 150 or Water 151 and any other water course Water 120, 130, 131, 132, 135, 140, 141, 150, 151, 160, or 161**)	• Pass the **Grade D3** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification. • **One year** of operator experience working as a certified D2 operator at a D2 system or higher. • **One additional year** of operator experience working as a certified distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) or (2) in the chart on page 3.

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Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Eligibility Criteria for Certification
D4	• Valid D3 certification • **Three** 36-hour OR 3.6-continuing-education-unit (CEU) OR 3-college-semester-unit courses of specialized training****** that includes at least two courses in water supply principles. (**TWO Water courses from Water 140, 141, 150 or Water 151 and any other water course Water 120, 130, 131, 132, 135, 140, 141, 150, 151, 160, or 161**)	• Pass the **Grade D4** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification. • **One year** of operator experience working as a certified D3 operator at a D3 system or higher. • **Three additional years** of operator experience working as a certified distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) in the chart on page 3.
D5	• Valid D4 certification • **Four** 36-hour OR 3.6-continuing-education-unit (CEU) OR 3-college-semester-unit courses of specialized training****** that includes at least two courses in water supply principles. (**TWO Water courses from Water 140, 141, 150 or Water 151 and TWO additional water courses Water 120, 130, 131, 132, 135, 140, 141, 150, 151, 160, or 161**)	• Pass the **Grade D5** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification. • **Two years** of operator experience working as a certified D4 operator at a D4 or D5 system. • **Three additional years** of operator experience working as a certified distribution operator. This may be substituted with (1) in the chart on page 3.

*****This requirement may also be fulfilled with either the successful completion of the State Water Board's Basic Small Water Systems Operations course or 1 year as an operator of a facility that required an understanding of piping systems that include pumps, valves, and storage tanks. For more information on the State Water Board's Basic Small Water Systems Operations course, contact the Office of Operator Certification.

******College level courses providing at least 36 contact hours of training each in drinking water or wastewater quality, drinking water or wastewater treatment, drinking water distribution, or drinking water or wastewater facility operation, offered by an accredited academic institution or an organization either accredited by the international Association of Continuing Education Training (IACET) or an authorized provider of IACET, or courses completed and deemed acceptable by the Department prior to January 1, 2001 for the purpose of operator certification.

Drinking Water Distribution Certification Experience Substitutions
(1) A degree earned at an accredited academic institution: (A) An associate degree, or certificate, in water or wastewater technology or distribution that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological sciences **may be used to fulfill 1 year of additional operator experience**. (B) A bachelors degree in engineering or in physical, chemical, or biological sciences **may be used to fulfill 1.5 years of additional operator experience**. (C) A masters degree in engineering or in physical, chemical, or biological sciences **may be used to fulfill 2 years of additional operator experience**. (2) Experience gained while working as a certified distribution operator with lead responsibility for water quality or quantity related projects or research **may be used to substitute 1 year of additional operator experience**, on a day-for-day basis.