CALIFORNIA Water Boards

Drinking Water Treatment Minimum Requirements

Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Eligibility Criteria for Certification
T1	• High School Diploma / GED Equivalency*	• Pass the **Grade T1** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification.
T2	• High School Diploma / GED Equivalency* • **One** 36-hour OR 3.6-continuing-education-unit (CEU) OR 3-college-semester-unit course of specialized training** covering the fundamentals of drinking water treatment. (**Water 150 or Water 151**)	• Passed the **Grade T2 or Grade T3** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification.
T3	• High School Diploma / GED Equivalency • **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 covering the fundamentals of drinking water treatment. (**Water 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 T3** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification. • **One year** of operator experience working as a certified T2 operator at a T2 facility or higher. This may be substituted with (1) in the chart on page 3. • **One additional year** of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator. This may be substituted with (2), (3), or (4) in the chart on page 3.

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Grade	Minimum Qualifications for Examination	Eligibility Criteria for Certification
T4	• Valid Grade T3 operator 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 drinking water treatment. (**Water 150 AND Water 151 and any other water course Water 120, 130, 131, 132, 135, 140, 141, 160, or 161**)	• Pass the **Grade T4** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification. • **One year** of operator experience working as a certified T3 operator, with shift or chief operator designation, at a T3 facility or higher. This may be substituted with (1) in the chart on page 3. • **Three additional years** of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator. This may be substituted with (3) or (4) in the chart on page 3.
T5	• Valid Grade T4 operator 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 drinking water treatment. (**Water 150 AND Water 151 and any TWO additional water courses Water 120, 130, 131, 132, 135, 140, 141, 160, or 161**)	• Pass the **Grade T5** operator examination within the three years prior to submitting the application for certification. • **Two years** of operator experience working as a certified T4 operator, with shift or chief operator designation, at a T4 facility or higher. • **Three additional years** of operator experience working as a certified treatment operator. This may be substituted with (3) or (4) 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 chemical feeds, hydraulic systems, and pumps. 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 Treatment Certification Experience Substitutions
(1) Completion of a comprehensive operator training program may be used to fulfill this experience requirement if the applicant has a Bachelor of Science degree or a Master of science degree. Completion of the comprehensive operator training program must be verified, in writing, by the chief plant operator. (2) Experience gained while working as a certified treatment operator with lead responsibility for water quality related projects or research **may be used to substitute 1 year of additional operator experience**, on a day-for-day basis. (3) A degree earned at an accredited academic institution: (A) An associate degree, or certificate, in water or wastewater technology that includes at least 15 units of physical, chemical, or biological sciences **may be used to fulfill 1 year of operator experience**. (B) A bachelor's degree in engineering or in physical, chemical, or biological sciences **may be used to fulfill 1.5 years of operator experience**. (C) A master's degree in engineering or in physical, chemical, or biological sciences **may be used to fulfill 2 years of operator experience**. (4) Experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment plant operator **may be used to fulfill up to 2 years of operator experience**. Two months of experience gained as a certified wastewater treatment plant operator will be credited as one month of treatment operator experience.