



# How to Become a Class III Certified Water Supply or Water Reclamation Operator

*Serve your community by helping to ensure people receive safe drinking water and wastewater is discharged in an environmentally safe manner.*

## Eligibility

To become a certified Class III Water Supply or Water Reclamation operator in the State of Ohio, you must apply for and pass the Class III state operator certification exam and document the appropriate level of hands-on experience. To apply for certification, you must have a high school diploma or the equivalent, and 48 months of operating experience in the field for which you are applying.

### Education experience credits are offered as follows:

Education (in years) Each year past high school must be a full year of education.	Months of Experience Required
High School Graduate or GED (REQUIRED)	48
13*	36
14 or Associates Degree*	24
15 or more with no degree*	12
Associates Degree in Water or Wastewater or a BS or BA from any accredited four-year college*	12

\*Post High School education shall be obtained in a physical or natural science or chemical, civil or environmental engineering and are subject to review by Operator Certification staff and/or the Operator Certification Advisory Council.

## Application and Fees

The State of Ohio has approved the Water Professionals International (WPI) as an Approved Examination Provider which are available more frequently and, in more locations, than Ohio EPA's traditional paper testing. To find out more about the WPI certification program, please visit [Ohio EPA's exam information website](#).

## Preparing for the Exam

To prepare for the exam, Ohio EPA recommends operators review the Need to Know Criteria for the exam they are taking. They can be used as an outline of what to study from the reference books that are used to generate the exam questions. Both can be found on the [Ohio EPA's exam information website](#). Ohio EPA strongly recommends against using question sets as your means to study for an examination.

## More Information

Visit our certification website [here](#), email the operator certification unit at [opcert@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:opcert@epa.ohio.gov) or call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-411-OPCT (6728).