



RECEPRIOCITY PROCESS & *Tips for being Certified in Alberta*

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Topics Discussed



- ***Alberta's Certification Program***
- ***Alberta Specific Guidelines***
 - ***Reciprocity Process***
 - ***Renewals/Audits***
 - ***Education/Training (Continuing Education Units – CEU's)***
 - ***New Initiatives***
- ***Code of Conduct***

Alberta's Certification Program



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- Program is administered by Environment and Parks Ministry - Provincial Programs Branch – Operations Division – Drinking Water and Wastewater Section – *Certification Section*
 - Office is located in Edmonton, AB
 - Lyndon Gyurek, PhD- is Director of Drinking Water and Wastewater Section
 - *Certification Section* – two of us in section – Vernice Bello, Certification Coordinator and myself, Program Lead
 - Certification Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Currently ~2700 certified operators in AB

Alberta's Certification Program

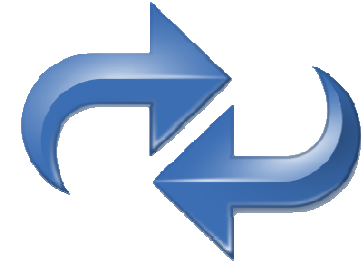


Program became mandatory in 1982 to protect public health and the environment

All Municipal Water and Wastewater facilities/systems were and continue to be classified (Level I to IV):

- **Sophistication of treatment facility (table of values assigned to treatment methods)**
- **Population serving the WD and WWC system**
- **Based on the Level of facility or system – Approvals and Registrations outline the number and specific level (s) of certified operator required to operate**

Reciprocity Process



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- **Straight forward – operators who are certified in BC (current and in good standing) and obtain employment in AB are required to fill out an application form and send supporting documentation**
 - **Receive same category and level of certificate in AB (until such time when an operator renews and then AB guidelines apply)**
 - **Takes approximately 10 business days to process**

Renewals/Audits

RENEW NOW!

- **Operators renew every three years, starting when you first obtain certification**
- **Regardless of when you challenge new exams, you stay on that initial three year cycle**
- **Operator may be subject to an audit at renewal, this maybe due to change of employment or additional information being required**

Renewal Procedure

RENEW NOW!

With Current Experience

An operator must obtain a minimum of twelve months of operating experience in the previous three years and must obtain an appropriate number of CEUs during the three–year renewal period.

Without Current Experience

**Option #2 can only be used a maximum of two consecutive times.*

If an operator does not have current experience, there are two options to choose from:

Continuing education: An operator must obtain a minimum of double their required CEU's during the three–year renewal period.

or

Re-examination: An operator may re-write the certification exam at the appropriate category and level. The rewrite must be completed by December 31 of the renewal year

Education/Training



- **Post Secondary Education – certificate, diploma, degree -related to water and wastewater operations (1 year is equal to 45 CEU's).**
- **Operators must track their own CEU's**
- **Approved CEU's List**
- **Application for CEU Evaluation**

Upcoming Initiatives



- Computer based exams have been phased in over the past couple of years
 - *Benefits*
 - 30 Days to schedule your exam writing
 - Immediate Results
 - Can re-schedule
- Applications for exams – we accept them on an on-going basis and approve exam session every two months (Sept, November, Jan, ongoing)
 - Paper Bases written 2X year – November and March currently
- On-line interactive database for all things certification coming live January 1, 2019

Code of Conduct



“Due to the importance of certified operators in protecting public health and safety, and the necessity for certifying authorities to rely on self-reporting by certified operators, any instance of falsification shall be considered a serious breach of the public trust that should be met with severe penalties” (ABC Model Standards for Operator Certification).

Code of Conduct



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- **All W&WW Operators are required to sign a Code of Conduct as part of being certified – this means something to AEP and should mean something to you**
 - **This is just as important as passing the exam**
 - **Operators are Leaders in their communities – need to set example for integrity, honesty, and professionalism**

Code of Conduct



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- **Everybody in this room is a leader by being an operator – don't need to be a supervisor or manager**
 - **This is our profession, we are all in this together – it only takes one person to ruin the public's trust**

What does the Code of Conduct mean to you?

Questions



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Alberta



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