

## The Roadmap to Certification: How to become a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in Massachusetts

Massachusetts has two tracks of wastewater operator certification – **Municipal** and **Industrial**.

**Municipal Certification** - This certificate is required for those treating domestic wastes or operating a biological treatment system for industrial wastes.

**Industrial Certification** - This certificate is required for those who do physical/chemical treatment of industrial wastes. These systems include pH neutralization, metals removal, treatment of volatile organics and groundwater remediation.

1. **TRAINING** - NEIWPCC and other training vendors provide courses designed to prepare participants for certification exams at all levels. While training is not required to become an operator, it is strongly recommended. NEIWPCC, in conjunction with MassDEP, offers exam preparatory courses for both municipal and industrial certification along with supplementary courses in lab and centrifugal pumps. These courses may be found at [www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/current\\_ma\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/current_ma_schedule.pdf)

Those entering the field for the first time should consider the *Basic Wastewater Math* course to freshen their math skills. If pursuing a municipal certificate, *Basic Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants (Grades 1 – 2)* is suggested. Industrial certificate candidates should take *Basic Industrial Wastewater Treatment (Grades 1 – 2)*.

For experienced operators seeking higher certification levels, there are courses geared to those levels, such as *Intermediate Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants (Grades 3 – 4)* for municipal operators and *Advanced Industrial Wastewater Treatment (Grades 3 – 4)* for industrial operators.

Correspondence training is available through the University of California at Sacramento. For more information, go to [www.owp.csus.edu/courses/wastewater.php](http://www.owp.csus.edu/courses/wastewater.php)

2. **EXAMS** - Schedule to take a wastewater exam by going to the AMP (Applied Measurement Professionals) website at [www.goamp.com](http://www.goamp.com) or by calling **800-345-6559**. Go to [www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/online\\_training.pdf](http://www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/online_training.pdf) for more details on this process. There are ten exams that can be taken - Grades 1 through 4 (either Municipal or Industrial), and Grades 5 and 6 Combined. The Combined certification allows an operator to work in either a municipal or industrial setting. **Note:** *The Board of Certification recommends taking and passing a level 1 or 2 exam before taking a higher level exam.*
3. **CERTIFICATION** - If you *pass* an exam as described in Step 2 above, submit the Score Report sheet (which you will get after taking an exam through AMP) along with a completed *Application For Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator License* form ([www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/license\\_applicationFeb2012.pdf](http://www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/license_applicationFeb2012.pdf)) and fee to NEIWPCC. License credentials will subsequently be sent to you via regular mail. In addition to Grade and Type, license status (which will be indicated on license wallet card) will be either “WI” (When & If - if not currently employed by a treatment facility), “OT” (Operator-in-Training - if employed by a treatment facility but not meeting the experience requirement) or “Full” (if employed by a facility and meeting the experience requirement for that grade), and either “Active” (OT or Full) or “Inactive” (WI). If you *fail* an exam, go back to step 1 and consider acquiring wastewater training. Then follow steps 2 and 3 again.

For information on how to *maintain* and *renew* your wastewater operator license, and more details on license status, please view and/or download the *Education Requirements For Recertification* sheet at [www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/education.pdf](http://www.neiwpcc.org/training/training-docs/education.pdf). For all wastewater certification, renewal and training-related forms, go to our Forms page at [www.neiwpcc.org/training/mwotforms.asp](http://www.neiwpcc.org/training/mwotforms.asp).