

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators operate mechanical equipment in wastewater treatment facilities in order to remove harmful waste products from water and to render it environmentally acceptable. They maintain pumps, pipes, valves, and processing equipment to move wastewater through collection systems and through various treatment processes. They read and interpret meters and gauges. They also operate chemical-feeding devices, perform laboratory analysis, and keep records of their work. They must be familiar with electricity, mechanics, chemistry, microbiology, hydraulics, and a host of other disciplines.

Legislation

Statute: NH RSA 485-A

Administrative Rules: Chapter Env-Wq 304

Licensure Requirements

- Satisfactory physical condition
- Satisfactory moral character
- High school graduate
- College according to grade (see below)
- Able to read and write in the English language

Regulatory Agency

Water Division

Wastewater Engineering Bureau

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95

Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

phone (603) 271-3503 or 271-5553

fax (603) 271-4128

web <www.des.nh.gov/waste/wastewater>

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Examination

Applicants without experience will be allowed to take the Grade I examination and, if successful, they will receive a Grade I Operator-In-Training (O-I-T) certificate. The experience and education requirements (in years) for the various grades are as follows:

Grade	Experience	Education
I O-I-T	None	Grade I after one year full-time
I	1 year	High school (HS) or high school equivalency (HSE) certificate
II O-I-T	None	HS/HSE plus one-year wastewater certificate
	1 year	HS/HSE
II	3 years	HS/HSE
III O-I-T	2 years	HS/HSE plus 90 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or two years college
III	4 years	HS/HSE plus 90 CEU or two years college
IV O-I-T	4 years	HS/HSE plus 90 CEU or two years college
IV	6 years	HS/HSE plus 90 CEU or two years college

Applicants who achieve a score of 70 percent or higher on the O-I-T exam must complete the full experience requirement prior to receiving a full license grade. Applicants who take the Grade I examination and achieve a score of 70 percent or higher will receive a Grade I license. Applicants achieving a score of 70 percent or higher on the written exam for Grades II, III, or IV may be required to attend an interview with the Certification Committee as a second step of the certification process.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (continued)

Continuing Education

For grades I and I O-I-T, one continuing education unit (CEU) is required in a relevant field of study per renewal period. All grades may carry forward 50 percent of the required total of renewal credits to the renewal period immediately following the renewal period in which it was earned. For Grades II and above, two CEU in a relevant field of study are required per renewal period. Ten hours of education equals one CEU; one college credit equals 1.5 CEU.

Reciprocity

Handled on a case-by-case basis by the Certification Committee. Certificates may be issued, without examination, in a comparable classification to other states, provided the individual holds a valid certificate issued by an appropriate agency and he or she is actively seeking employment in New Hampshire. Certification must have been issued by examination in the other state. Grade IV certificates are not available by reciprocity.

Active Licenses

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Related Training

Water Quality and Wastewater Treatment Management and Recycling Technology/Technician

Fees

Application	\$50.00
Biennial renewal	\$50.00

O*Net Codes

51-8031.00	Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System Operators
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Additional Information Sources

Association of Boards of Certification
<www.abccert.org>

New Hampshire Waterworks Association
<www.nhwwa.org>