

# Drinking Water Operator Certification in NC

## Are you over 18 and have your high school diploma or GED? What's next?

1. Attend a state approved certification school (usually 4-5 days).
2. Submit exam application, your school certificate of completion and \$50.00 fee to sit for the state exam for the certification you seek.
  - Exams are multiple choice and you must score a minimum of 70% to pass.
  - Traditional and Electronic Exams are given several times per year at multiple locations statewide.

There are experience requirements to qualify for all drinking water certifications except apprentice levels. See table.

### Where do I find a state approved certification school?

The Operator Certification Program does **NOT** conduct certification schools, however we do post upcoming schools as the training providers provide dates so you can check our [approved schools](#) page, or call the training providers directly to check for future availability and registration information.

- [NC American Water Works Assn/WEA](#)
- [NC Rural Water Assn](#)
- [NC Waterworks Operators Assn](#)

### How do I apply to take a certification exam?

You must complete and mail an [exam application](#) (SSN required for initial certification), and include your certificate of completion for the approved school attended for the level of certification you are seeking along with the \$50.00 exam fee, to the address on your application. The application must be postmarked [no later than 30 days prior to the desired exam date](#).

### Now that I am a certified operator, how do I maintain my certificate?

As a certified operator, you will be required to renew your certification annually, each year following the year of initial certification and every year thereafter. You must annually complete six hours of Board-approved [professional growth hours](#) prior to the expiration of the certificate to be eligible to renew your certification.

CROSS CONNECTION	
CROSS CONNECTION	6 months at D Grade or higher system <u>or</u> have 1 year operating CC devices
<b>CROSS CONNECTION - APPRENTICE</b>	<b>NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED</b>

DISTRIBUTION	
D	3 months at a distribution system
C	6 months at D Grade or higher system + trenching/shoring certificate
<b>C <u>or</u> D - APPRENTICE</b>	<b>NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED</b> but must have trenching/shoring certificate for C Apprentice
B	1 year at C Grade distribution system while holding C Certificate
A	1 year at B Grade distribution system while holding B Certificate

SURFACE	
C	6 months at a surface water facility
<b>C - APPRENTICE</b>	<b>NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED</b>
B	1 year at a surface water facility while holding a C certificate
A	1 year at a surface water facility while holding a B certificate

WELL	
D	3 months at a well water facility
C	6 months at a well water facility
<b>C <u>or</u> D - APPRENTICE</b>	<b>NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED</b>
B	1 year at a well facility while holding C certificate
A	1 year at a well facility while holding B certificate

\* For more details on eligibility see [Operator Rules](#).

**For more information: 919-707-9040**