

# Water

## Wastewater Treatment Systems Operator Certification

**What Activities Require This Permit?** This is a certification, rather than a permit. Operators that perform daily operations management at classified wastewater treatment facilities are required to be certified to operate these facilities, are responsible for the proper operation of these facilities and the compliance of the system with all permit requirements.

**What Is The Purpose of This Permit?** N.C. General Statute 90A-35 - 45 establishes the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission (WPCSOCC) and gives the appointed commission the authority to establish rules to govern the certification of wastewater treatment system operators in North Carolina. The WPCSOCC has established the rules governing these certifications in NCAC 15A-Subchapter 8G Sections .0100 - .1100 and Subchapter 8F Sections .0100 through .0506 to protect the public health of the citizens of the State; conserve, protect and maintain the quality of the water resources of the state as assigned by the N.C. Environmental Management Commission; protect the public investment in water pollution control systems; provide for the classification of water pollution control systems; and establish the procedures for the examination and certification of operators of water pollution control systems. These examinations and certifications are designed to require demonstration of at least a minimal knowledge of proper operation of each type of system that requires certified operators.

**Who Issues This Permit?** N.C. Division of Water Resources, via authority granted the staff by the WPCSOCC.

**How Much Will This Permit Cost?** Industrial and municipal systems operators must complete a required school for which approved private providers determine the costs. The operator must then pass a certification exam for each grade of certification that costs animal systems operators \$25 and industrial and municipal system operators \$85. Annual renewal of certifications costs \$10 for animal system operators and \$50 for industrial and municipal system operators. The N.C. General Assembly in N.C. Statute 90-A-42 establishes these and additional fees. There are currently seven types of certifications and up to four grades in each type of certification. These are: Animal Systems- Grade A & B; Biological Wastewater- Grade 1 – 4; Physical/Chemical- Grades 1 & 2; Collections Systems- Grades 1-4; Subsurface Systems; Surface Irrigation Systems; and Land Application of Residuals.

### What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees?

**Exam fees** - Check/money order

**Renewal fees** – Check, money order or Electronic payment at <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/operator-certification/ocp-epayments>

### If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check?

Checks/money orders payable and mailed to: **WPCSOCC, 1618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1618**

**Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit?** Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/operator-certification/wastewater-operator-certification/wastewater-operator-certification-exams> (scroll down to "Exam Applications:").

**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** Basic schools require between one week and eight weeks to complete. The minimum instruction hours for each certification are established by WPCSOCC. Schools must be completed prior to applying for examination. Exams are currently administered each quarter of the year at five locations throughout North Carolina. Applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to exams. Each of the types and grades require graduated amounts of operational experience.

**Where Do I Submit My Application?** N.C. Division of Water Resources, WPCSOCC 1618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC, 27699-1618.

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** All certifications are renewable each calendar year by completing required continuing education and paying annual fee.

**Notes/Comments:** This is a certification, rather than a permit. Details of certification requirements are available at [https://ncdenr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fspublic/Water%20Quality/Operator\\_Certification\\_Files/WW\\_Files/WW%20Operator%20Rules.pdf](https://ncdenr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fspublic/Water%20Quality/Operator_Certification_Files/WW_Files/WW%20Operator%20Rules.pdf).

**Wastewater Treatment Systems Operator Certification**

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** GS 90A, Articles 35-45/ 15NCAC Subchapters 8G & 8F.

**Link:** <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/operator-certification/wastewater-operator-certification>

**Statewide Contact Information:**

NC Division of Water Resources

WPCSOCC

1618 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1618

Telephone: (919) 707-9108

Fax: (919) 707-2726