Welcome and Introductions
Everyone participates.

One person speaks at a time.

Be respectful.

Take side conversations and phone calls outside.

Keep discussion relevant.

Disagree? Propose solution.

Be punctual and be prepared.

Be kind.

Assume good intent.

Use specific examples.

Speak your truth. Be authentic.

Listen deeply. Ask for clarification.

Be sensitive to rhetoric and inside language.

Share the air.

Be bold about asking questions.
Draft
WAC 173-230
What did we do?

• Added new fee section
• Reorganized for flow and clarity
• Made buried requirements stand-alone sections
• Added new content
Fees

• New fee section
Definitions

• Clarified existing definitions
• Added new definitions
• "CEU" means continuing education unit that is a nationally recognized unit of measurement similar to college credit. One CEU is awarded for every ten contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction. **Forty-five CEUs is equivalent to one year of education.**
• "College credits" means credits earned toward a college degree or in course work that is relevant to the operation of a wastewater treatment plant. **One year of college is equivalent to forty-five quarter credits or thirty semester credits.**
• "Exam" means a test recognized by the Department to determine the competency of operators for each certification level.
• “Full certification” means holding a Group I, Group II, Group III, or Group IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification issued by the department. Full certification does not include Operator in Training certifications.

• “Gross negligence” means an act or omission performed or not performed in reckless disregard of a legal duty, or without even slight care.

• "Lead Operator of a shift" means the individual on-site at a wastewater treatment plant whose primary responsibility is to operate the wastewater treatment plant on a regularly run shift. The operator in charge of each shift is subordinate to the operator in responsible charge. An OIT may not be the lead operator of a shift.
• “LOSS (large on-site sewage system)” means a system that conveys, stores, treats, and provides subsurface soil treatment and disposal of domestic sewage.
• “MBR (membrane bioreactor)” means the combination of a suspended growth biological treatment process with membrane filtration.
• “Operating shift” means a designated period of time in which a certified operator makes decisions and takes actions that directly impact effluent quality, water quality, and public and environmental health protection.
• "Operator in responsible charge" means the individual who is routinely on-site and in direct charge of the overall operation of a wastewater treatment plant. An OIT may not be the operator in responsible charge.
• “Operator in Training or OIT” means an individual who passed an exam but has less than the required amount of operating experience to meet the certification requirements.

• “Operator in Training or OIT certificate” means a certificate issued by the department to an operator in training that is working towards full certification.

• “Pretreatment” means...

• “Probation” means a period of time in which a certified operator is given an opportunity to make changes, improvements, or take corrective actions to avoid further enforcement actions under this chapter.

• “Professional Growth” means training that is directly related to improving competencies in areas that relate to operating and maintaining a wastewater treatment plant.
• “Professional growth reporting period” means a designated period of time not less than three years, in which a certified operator completes the professional growth requirement in WAC 173-230-____(Professional Growth).

• "Reclaimed water" means water derived in any part from a wastewater with a domestic wastewater component that has been adequately and reliably treated to meet the requirements of this chapter, so that it can be used for beneficial purposes. Reclaimed water is not considered a wastewater.

• "Reciprocity " means the mutual exchange of a valid out-of-state wastewater treatment plant operator's certificate achieved by passing a written examination for an equivalent level of certification without further examination.
“Relevant work experience” means work that does not meet the definition of operating experience, but can be used to substitute for operating experience, and includes but is not limited to:

a. Wastewater collection system operator;
b. Water distribution system operator and/or manager;
c. Wastewater pump station operator; or
d. Water treatment plant operator.
e. Other related work experience may include building and equipment maintenance, boiler operation, machinist, laboratory technician, engineering, welding, or other related fields on a case-by-case basis with a written description of the duties performed on the job by the applicant.
• “Revocation” means the department invalidates an operator’s certificate.
• “Routine” means duties that are performed on a regular basis and not sporadically.
• “Suspension” means to make an operator’s certificate temporarily invalid.
Education and Experience

- Spelled out substitutions
- Reorganized table columns
- Separated experience substitutions
- Changed High School substitutions
OIT

- New section
- Changed Group I operating experience substitution
Professional Growth

• Separated from renewal requirements
• Removed drinking water certs
• Clarifications
Renewal Requirements

• Clarified process
Reciprocity

• None for OIT’s
• Require ABC exam?
Exam Requirements

• Updated to reflect current process
• New applications for expired approvals
• Extensions allowed
• Work in progress
Suspension/Revocation

• Stand-alone sections for suspension, revocation, and probationary?
• Deny certification
• Permanent revocation
Violations

- No changes
Appeals

• Enhance based on revocation policy?
Purpose and Scope

• Rewrote purpose for flow
• Rewrote scope for clarity
• Scope
  • a. Obtaining and maintaining a wastewater treatment plant operator certification.
  • b. Certification level requirements for an operator in responsible charge of a treatment plant.
  • c. Certification level requirements for a lead operator of a shift.
  • d. Wastewater treatment plant classifications.
  • e. Enforcement actions for violations of this chapter.
Applicability

• Rewrote to specify
  • Owner
  • Certified operators
  • Seeking certification
Application Requirements

- Rewrote for clarity
Certificate Term

- Separated from renewals
- Specified term dates
Temporary Certificates

• New stand-alone section
• Clarified requirements
Provisional Certificate

• New stand-alone section
• Clarified provisional requirements
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION