

## How to Become a Certified Water or Wastewater Operator in Alaska

**Overall Requirements:** The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) offers certification exams in four different system types: water treatment, water distribution, wastewater collection, and wastewater treatment. There are five levels of certification in each system type (Provisional, I, II, III, and IV). Operators must meet experience and education requirements before being approved to take a certification exam.

All persons applying for Provisional exams must have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Provisional exams require that an operator have at least three FULL TIME months of operations experience **OR** completion of an approved training course. The following chart summarizes the requirements for each certification level and system type.

	Provisional		Level I		Level II		Level III		Level IV	
	Education	Operating Experience	Education	Operating Experience	Education	Operating Experience	Education	Operating Experience	Education	Operating Experience
Water Treatment	12	*	12	1	12	3	13	4	16	4
Water Distribution	12	*	12	1	12	3	13	4	13	6
Wastewater Collection	12	*	12	1	12	3	13	4	13	6
Wastewater Treatment	12	*	12	1	12	3	13	4	16	4

**Note:** Required periods of education and experience are reflected in years. Twelve years of education represents high school graduation or completion of a GED. The Department will waive the minimum education requirement for the Provisional Level and Level I in accordance with 18 AAC 74.050 (e)(6). Additional experience and education criteria and substitutions are set out in 18 AAC 74.050 (b)-(g).

\* Three months of operating experience or the completion of a Department approved training course, as described in 18 AAC 74.050 (c)(1) is required.

### Approved Training Courses

*Department approval is necessary for courses that do not appear on this list.*

#### 1. Workshops

Approved workshops can be found on the Statewide Alaska Training Coalition Calendar. The workshops are titled Intro to Small Water or Wastewater Systems Provisional Level. The workshops are week-long with four days of instruction and the State certification exams offered on the fifth day. The calendar is available online at: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/attac/calendar.html>.

#### 2. Online Courses

The University of Alaska SE Environmental Technology Program offers two online courses that satisfy the education requirements for the water and wastewater Provisional Level certification exams; Drinking Water Systems and Wastewater Systems. Both courses are web-based and run 14 weeks beginning in August. Course descriptions and more information can be found on the ENVT web site or by calling (888) 750-3823 (<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/attac/envt.html>).

### 3. Correspondence Courses

System Type	Approved Courses
Water Treatment Provisional	CSU - Water Treatment Plant Operation Vol. 1 or CSU - Small Water System O&M or ACR - Introduction to Small Water Systems
Water Distribution Provisional	CSU - Water Distribution System O&M or ACR - Introduction to Small Water Systems
Wastewater Collection Provisional	CSU - O&M of Wastewater Collection Systems Vol. 1 or ACR - Introduction to Alaska Small Wastewater Systems
Wastewater Treatment Provisional	CSU - Small Wastewater System O&M Vol. 1 or CSU - Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants Vol. 1 or ACR - Introduction to Alaska Small Wastewater Systems

#### ACR

Arasmith Consulting Resources  
Phone: (800) 433-8150 • Fax: (503) 926-3478

#### CSU

California State University OWP  
Phone: (916) 278-6142 • Fax: (916) 278-5959

#### UAS

University of Alaska SE Sitka  
Phone: (800) 478-6653 ext. 7756  
Fax: (907) 747-7753

Once an approved course from 2 or 3 above is completed, an operator must apply with the Department to take the relevant Provisional exam(s). Exams are given twice per year in April and October with application deadlines in February and August respectively. Contact the Department for exam and application deadline dates: (907) 465-5140.

#### Alaska Training/Technical Assistance Center

Safe drinking water is essential to public health and having properly trained individuals is vital to community sanitation. An operator has the most important job in the community in regards to protecting public health.

Our goal at ATTAC is to assist operators in developing, enhancing and maintaining technical, managerial, and financial capacity of their systems for increased public health protection and sustained compliance with the SDWA requirements. We strive to provide operators with top quality training, customer service, and information.

<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/attac>

Toll Free in Alaska: (888) 750-3823

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