

OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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General information (EPA)

Duties

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) protects human health and the environment by restoring contaminated land and water resources, and implements standards for air quality, drinking and stream water quality, wastewater treatment, and solid, infectious, and hazardous waste treatment and disposal. EPA issues permits governing installation and operation of pollution sources; provides oversight through inspections and air, water, and ground sampling; provides compliance assistance and environmental education to industry and the general public; and responds to spills and other emergencies. The Agency provides funding to local governments and organizations through grants for air pollution control, environmental education, watershed restoration, and acquires land and conservation easements to protect and improve water quality. The EPA also supports economic development by providing low-interest loans to local communities for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects.

Membership *(Current members, chairperson and other officers, and selection process.)*

Anne Vogel, Director. Mark Johnson, Assistant Director. Shelby Croft, Todd Anderson, Donna Waggoner, Susan Vance, Stephanie Reeves, Andrew Smith, Katherine Boyer, (P) Deputy Director.

All classified positions are selected by posting jobs on Ohiocareers.gov and following a structured interview process.

Budget *(Current budget, description of budgeting process, sources of funding, and expected increases or decreases in budget or funding in future years.)*

Ohio EPA's current budget is approximately \$271M and is expected to increase slightly for the next biennium, mainly due to increased personnel costs. The Agency's primary funding source is fees for permits, licenses and waste disposal, as well as ongoing federal grants for air quality, water quality, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, environmental remediation and hazardous waste management. With the exception of funding awarded through IJJA, federal grant award amounts have been steady.

Workload *(Assess current, past, and anticipated workload. Has the workload increased or decreased significantly in the preceding six years?)*

Workload has increased in the preceding 6 years; however, improvements to and additions of technology as well as continued process improvement and streamlining of work have been a successful solution to these increases. Anticipated workload in the Division of Air Pollution and Control (DAPC), and related administrative support for that division, is expected to increase significantly in the future based on public interest and demand as well as federal regulation changes.

Staffing *(How many staff are currently employed by the Agency? What are their roles? Are staffing levels proportionate to the Agency's current and anticipated workload?)*

1,129 permanent staff. The majority of employees are in the Environmental Specialist classification series (8586), Environmental Specialist 2 through Environmental Administrator. Additional staffing includes administrative support; administrative professionals, fiscal/budgeting, legal, IT/technology, communications/media, human resources/training staff.

Additionally, the agency hires 100 college interns each year.

Staffing levels are proportionate to the agency's current workload. An increased workload in DAPC will need to be addressed with additional staffing.

Administrative hearings and public complaints *(Describe the Agency's processes for administering discipline and addressing complaints. Assess the efficiency of the processes.)*

ORC 119

ERAC Appeal Process

Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA) contractual discipline process is followed for union employees.

State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) review process is available for discipline associated to classified employee.

Certified operator of a construction and demolition debris facility

Survey response (EPA)

Description

These regulations require construction and demolition debris (“C&DD”) facilities to have at least one certified operator that is on site or reasonably available each day during operations. The operator is responsible for overseeing all operations, being thoroughly familiar with proper operating procedures, the terms and conditions of the license, and the rules, and reviewing and signing the completed daily log for each day of operation.

Type (*License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.*)

Government certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually

Approx. 50

Number renewed annually

Approx. 50

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	There has been an increase in the last year due to the new C&DD Processing Facility program that began in 2022.
Education or training requirements	10 training hours consisting of at least two hours of C&DD rules/laws and at least six hours of best management practices for C&DD facilities.
Experience requirements	Twelve months of work experience pertaining to the day to day operations at either a construction and demolition debris facility or construction and demolition debris processing facility or other experience deemed acceptable by the director of Ohio EPA.
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	No exam is required by rule.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	Same as the education training requirements above.
Initial fee	No fee is required.
Duration	The certification lasts one year.
Renewal fee (<i>If different from initial fee, please explain why.</i>)	None.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	No.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	There aren't any similar national certifications that could be used as a substitute for Ohio EPA's regulation.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	No there are no circumstances where the individual can practice this occupation without being regulated by the Agency.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	The only discretion the agency is permitted to use in certifying an operator is that if the operator has violated any of the C&DD laws and rules, then that operator's application can be denied.
Other information (Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.)	N/A
Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.	
The Agency can deny, suspend, or revoke an individual's certification if that individual has violated any of the C&DD laws and rules.	

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

No revenue is collected by Ohio EPA from this certification program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

Federal law does not require Ohio to regulate this occupation.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulations are intended to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare by requiring that C&DD facilities are operated by competent and knowledgeable individuals who know how to operate a C&DD facility in accordance with Ohio laws and rules.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the regulation is effective at preventing the harm described above.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

There aren't any changes that the agency would like to see implemented.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC) (as of September 9, 2024)

Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Facility Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation (Name of regulation)	Yes (C&DD operator certificate) <i>(R.C. 3714.062(A))</i>	Yes (Construction/ Demolition site operator certificate) <i>(329 Ind. Admin. Code 12-7-1(a)(3) and 12-7-3(b)(3))</i>	Yes (Landfill manager/ operator certificate) <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 47:070, section 3(1))</i>	No clear equivalent	No clear equivalent	License (Landfill manager certificate) <i>(W. Va. Code R. 33-1-4.3.a)</i>

Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Facility Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Education or training	At least ten hours of approved education training that covers laws governing C&DD facilities and best management practices <i>(O.A.C. 3745-400-26(B)(2))</i>	N/A	High school diploma or GED Attendance of a training course <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 47:070, section 7(1); Ky. Energy and Environment Cabinet, Applying for a Solid Waste Certification (PDF))</i>	N/A	N/A	Complete a course of instruction in solid waste management procedures and practices <i>(W. Va. Code R. 33-1-4.3.a)</i>
Experience	One year of work experience at a C&DD facility, a C&DD processing facility, a sanitary landfill facility, or other approved experience <i>(O.A.C. 3745-400-26(B)(1))</i>	N/A	At least two years of: (1) administrative experience in a related field (waste management, wastewater treatment, etc.), (2) postsecondary education, or (3) a combination of experience in a related field and postsecondary education	N/A	N/A	N/A

Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Facility Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
			An applicant not meeting any of the above may still be considered on a case-by-case basis <i>(Ky. Energy and Environment Cabinet, Applying for a Solid Waste Certification (PDF))</i>			
Exam	N/A	Yes <i>(329 Ind. Admin. Code 12-7-3(a))</i>	Yes <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 47:070, section 6(3))</i>	N/A	N/A	Yes <i>(W. Va. Code R. 33-1-4.3.d)</i>
Continuing education	Ten hours per year (same training as for certification – see above) <i>(O.A.C. 3745-400-26(B)(1))</i>	Ten hours addressing six or more topics addressed in the regulations governing solid waste management <i>(329 Ind. Admin. Code 12-7-6.5(3))</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	30 hours training in solid waste management every three years <i>(W. Va. Code R. 33-1-4.3.d.1)</i>

Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Facility Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Initial licensure fee	N/A	At least \$50 <i>(Ind. Code 13-15-10-5(a)(3) and (b))</i>	\$150 <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 47:070, section 14(1)(c))</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
License duration	One year <i>(O.A.C. 3745-400-26(F)(1))</i>	Up to three years <i>(329 Ind. Admin. Code 12-7-3(f) and (g))</i>	Five years <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 47:070, section 8(2))</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Renewal fee	N/A	At least \$50 <i>(Ind. Code 13-15-10-5(a)(3) and (b))</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified professional under the Voluntary Action Program

Survey response (EPA)

Description

The purpose of the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) is to give individuals or companies a way to investigate possible environmental contamination, clean it up if necessary and receive a legal release from the State of Ohio that no more cleanup is needed. The VAP maximizes resources and expertise in the private sector by utilizing qualified, experienced professionals such as engineers and scientists who are certified by Ohio EPA. These certified professionals (CPs) are responsible for verifying properties are cleaned up to the levels required by the program rules. The detailed program rules allow these qualified professionals and the volunteer that he or she represents to do the work without ongoing Agency involvement. Ohio EPA operates a certification program to ensure that only environmental professionals with the appropriate qualifications and experience are licensed as CPs. In addition, to help ensure high-quality work, CPs must meet annual continuing education

Description

requirements and be recertified by Ohio EPA each year. The certification only applies to the VAP and does not limit an environmental consultant's participation in similar non-VAP work, such as cleanups conducted under RCRA or BUSTR regulations.

Type (*License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.*)

Certification

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually

10 new certifications annually.

Number renewed annually

100

Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?

No.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Education or training requirements	Minimum of a bachelor's degree from a recognized educational institution in biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, geology, hydrogeology, toxicology, scientific subdisciplines of public health or hazardous waste management, appropriate areas of engineering, or in a curriculum determined to be equivalent by the director. Completion of 8-hour initial certification training.
Experience requirements	Eight years of relevant professional experience three of which are supervisory, or project management related.
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	Not applicable.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	Minimum of twelve professional development hour units in the certification period. Credit is approved for attendance at and successful completion of any of the following: relevant college, courses, relevant continuing education courses, seminars, in-house courses, workshops, meetings, conventions, conferences pertaining to investigation, assessment, or remediation, of hazardous substances or petroleum. Credit is also approved for presentation and instruction at any of the following: courses, seminars, workshops, or other meetings identified above, instruction of courses in biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, geology, hydrogeology, toxicology, scientific subdisciplines, hazardous waste management, appropriate areas of engineering, other core courses that do otherwise qualify but demonstrate the certified professional's knowledge of the subject matter relevant to the investigation, assessment, or remediation of hazardous substances or petroleum. A minimum of six of the twelve professional development hour units in the certification period by attendance of courses and seminars conducted by Ohio EPA. A certified professional who has not submitted a no further action letter to the director in request of a covenant not to sue within the past four calendar years must also attend and complete the initial certification training.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	Curriculum set and conducted by Ohio EPA includes relevant topics on pertaining to investigation, assessment, or remediation, of hazardous substances or petroleum, as well as VAP rule training, guidance updates, and case studies.
Initial fee	\$2500
Duration	1 Year
Renewal fee <i>(If different from initial fee, please explain why.)</i>	\$2000 - Renewal applications are shorter than initial applications and take fewer staff hours to review. The initial application also covers the cost of developing and updating the initial certification training.
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	Yes
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	No
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes. The certification only applies to the VAP and does not limit an environmental consultant's participation in similar non-VAP work, such as cleanups conducted under RCRA or BUSTR regulations.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	Yes

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Other information (*Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.*)

The individual possesses the professional competence and knowledge to perform the tasks required of a certified professional. This determination shall be made by a review of evidence including, but not limited to, references, Ohio EPA comments on past work submitted to Ohio EPA, the application form, and other sources the director deems appropriate. To make this determination, the director may consider the following: proficiency of the individual, duration of the individual's relevant employment, previous performance of the individual with regard to various investigative methods used, including but not limited to, whether such experience includes work at sites where subsurface investigations that involved hazardous substances or petroleum occurred, previous performance of the individual with regard to past performance working with Ohio EPA, previous performance of the individual with regard to the various types of remedial systems designed and monitored, performance of the individual with regard to risk and exposure assessments, performance of the individual with regard to evaluating laboratory data quality and sufficiency to conduct a voluntary action, number of individuals and disciplines of other professionals supervised or coordinated by the individual, nature of conclusions reached and recommendations and opinions presented by the individual, any other factors the director deems relevant.

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

ORC 3746

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

Annually, the fees bring in approximately \$225,000. The revenue is used to fund 1 FTE of staff time to administer the certification and renewal process, and 0.25 FTE of staff time to provide ongoing training to the CPs each year, additional funds are used to administer the other aspects of the VAP program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

No federal regulations apply.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The VAP provides a voluntary option to reducing environmental contamination, and thereby improving public health. The VAP certified professional program ensures environmental professionals working in the VAP have the professional experience, education and VAP specific training necessary to complete the complex remediation projects that go through the VAP.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the VAP has issued over 700 covenants not to sue, covering over 16,800 acres of land across Ohio.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

No.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC) (as of August 22, 2024)

Under Ohio law, an individual must be licensed as a certified professional to conduct activities under the Voluntary Action Program.¹ To qualify, an individual needs to have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree from a recognized educational institution in either: biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, geology, hydrogeology, toxicology, subdisciplines of public health or hazardous waste management, appropriate areas of engineering, or in a curriculum determined to be equivalent. The individual also has to complete an initial certification training consisting of eight hours of instruction pertaining to relevant laws, regulations, and standards of conduct. Along with the education requirements, an individual must also have at least eight years relevant professional experience with three of those years being supervisory or project management related. During the year the license is valid, an individual must

¹ O.A.C. 3745-300-02(C)(1)(a)(ii).

complete 12 hours of professional development units.² The individual must pay an initial licensure fee of \$2,500 and an annual renewal fee of \$2,000.³

Similarly, West Virginia law requires an individual wishing to practice as a remediation specialist in the state's Voluntary Remediation Program to be licensed.⁴ There are two tracks for education and experience that an individual can meet:

- Standard track:
 - Earned a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree from an accredited educational institution in: biology, chemistry, earth sciences, environmental sciences, geology, hydrogeology, microbiology, soil sciences, toxicology, scientific subdisciplines of public health, risk assessment, hazardous waste management, engineering, or in a curriculum the Secretary determines is equivalent; and
 - Have six years of relevant professional experience, with at least one year of those years being supervisory or project management related.
- Alternative track: Earned at least a high school diploma and have at least ten years of relevant professional experience, with at least one of those years being supervisory or project management related.⁵

There is also an examination an individual must pass before receiving a certificate.⁶ The license is valid for two years, during which, an individual must earn 12 hours of continuing education credit along with paying a \$400 for the renewal fee.⁷

² O.A.C. 3745-300-05.

³ O.A.C. 3745-300-03(B)(1) and (2).

⁴ W. Va. Code R. 60-3-5.1.a.

⁵ W. Va. Code R. 60-3-5.2.a, 60-3-5.2.b, 60-5.2.b.2, and 60-5.2.b.3.

⁶ W. Va. Code R. 60-3-5.3.

⁷ W. Va. Code R. 60-3-5.4.a and 60-3-5.5.a; W. Va. Dept. of Environmental Protection, [LRS Requirements](#).

Enhanced motor vehicle inspection and maintenance inspector

Survey response (EPA)

Description

Process to issue certification to individuals that conduct testing in Ohio's motor vehicle emissions testing program.

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)

Certificate to conduct the emissions test.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually

80 to 90.

Number renewed annually

100 to 150.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	No.
Education or training requirements	40 hour class on vehicle testing methods conducted by contractor that operates Ohio E Check program.
Experience requirements	None.
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	Applicants shall successfully complete the required training and score at least eighty per cent on the written examination and hands-on demonstration administered by Ohio EPA. No fees are charged.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	None.
Initial fee	None.
Duration	2 years.
Renewal fee (<i>If different from initial fee, please explain why.</i>)	None.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	No.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	No.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	No.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	Yes.
Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)	Minimum age is 18.

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

The Ohio EPA monitors and conducts quality assurance audits. Discipline is handled by the contactor conducting the Ohio E-Check program but the Ohio EPA maintains the right to request a dismissal at our discretion.

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

\$0.00

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

40 CFR 51.367 sets the requirements.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

Fraudulent testing.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes. No.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

No.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC) (as of August 20, 2024)

Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance Professionals						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation (Name of regulation)	License (Certified inspector – tests motor vehicle emissions) <i>(R.C. 3704.14; O.A.C. 3745-26-13; 40 C.F.R. 51.367)</i>	License (Certified motor vehicle emission inspector) <i>(Ind. Code 13-17-5-5.1; 326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-15)</i>	No clear equivalent – Kentucky does not require emissions inspections	No clear equivalent – Michigan does not require emissions inspections	License (Certified emission inspector) <i>(67 Pa. Code 177.408)</i>	No clear equivalent – West Virginia does not require emissions inspections

Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance Professionals						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Education or training	Training that meets federal requirements <i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-13)</i>	Program of training approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management <i>(326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-15)</i>	N/A	N/A	Emission inspection training course approved by the Department of Transportation <i>(67 Pa. Code 177.408)</i>	N/A
Experience	Must be at least 18 years of age <i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-13)</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Must be at least 18 years of age with a valid driver's license <i>(67 Pa. Code 177.408)</i>	N/A
Exam	Yes <i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-13)</i>	Yes <i>(326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-15)</i>	N/A	N/A	Yes <i>(67 Pa. Code 177.408)</i>	N/A
Continuing education	No formal continuing education, but must attend and successfully complete a recertification	Refresher training and testing <i>(326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-15)</i>	N/A	N/A	Refresher training course for emission inspector <i>(67 Pa. Code 177.408)</i>	N/A

Motor Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance Professionals						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	course and test to renew license <i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-13)</i>					
Initial licensure fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
License duration	Two years <i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-13)</i>	One year <i>(326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-15)</i>	N/A	N/A	Two years <i>(67 Pa. Code 177.408)</i>	N/A
Renewal fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Public water system professional operator

Survey response for public water system professional operator A certification (EPA)

Description
Public water system Class A (Water Supply) certification is an entry level certification serving smaller public water systems.

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)

Certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually	Certificates issued vary based on year, but in SFY24, 15 Class A water treatment certificates were issued.
Number renewed annually	Certificates renewed vary based on year, but in SFY24, 136 Class A water treatment certificates were renewed.
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	No
Education or training requirements	Certification requires a minimum of a high school diploma, or the equivalent.
Experience requirements	6 months (1,080 hours) of operating experience, or 3 years of working experience. Operating experience is hands on time operating a public water system. Working experience – means time spent at a job where a portion of the duties involve dealing with a public water system or treatment works.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	This time can be reduced based on post high school education in an approved degree program, or successfully completing Basic Water courses through California State University – Sacramento, or the Operator Training Committee of Ohio, Inc.
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	Examinations are given by an approved third-party examination provider, Water Professionals International, through their testing contractor that has 10 testing locations in Ohio, locations in other states and locations in other countries. Third party exam providers can apply to Ohio EPA to be approved in accordance with provisions in OAC Rule 3745-7-19. Fees include the cost of the examination fee which is paid to the test administrator (currently \$112) and the certification fee (\$45) which is paid to Ohio EPA. Fees are used to cover a portion of the cost of the operator certification program.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	Class A operators must submit 8 contact hours to renew their license. Within the hour requirement, at least 50% of those hours must be on a topic related to operations and maintenance (O&M) in the field of water treatment. A 25% reduction in the contact hours requirement is also available if the operator holds multiple certificates. Ohio EPA approves courses for contact hours, in both water and wastewater, and determines if the topic is related to O&M, or 'other' (like safety or management courses) from over 455 training providers. In SFY24, there were 3,581 different courses offered 13,306 times to operators.
Initial fee	The initial fee is the application for certification fee discussed above \$45.
Duration	2 years
Renewal fee (<i>If different from initial fee, please explain why.</i>)	\$25. The renewal fee is established in ORC 3745.11(O).
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	Provisions in the operator certification rules allow for reciprocity.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	There are no national registrations, certifications or licenses.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes, an operator may work at a water treatment plant without being certified. The only person required to be certified is the operator of record for the plant.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	<p>There are provisions in the operator certification rules that make an operator ineligible for certification, but the agency does not have discretion in determining whether to certify an individual. The provisions that make an operator ineligible are as follows:</p> <p>(1) Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a criminal charge involving falsification, fraud, or terrorism.</p> <p>(2) At the time of application and prior to the examination date, not have a revoked or currently suspended Ohio professional operator certification.</p> <p>(3) Not have a professional operator certificate from any other state currently revoked or under suspension.</p> <p>(4) Not have performed the duties of a professional operator of record without a valid certificate of the appropriate field and classification, unless in accordance with the exemptions and exceptions contained in chapter 3745-7 of the Administrative Code.</p>
Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)	<p>Applicants must have the ability to do the following:</p> <p>(a) Read and understand Chapters 6109. and 6111. of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder.</p> <p>(b) Perform mathematical calculations required to operate in the field for which certification is being sought.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

(c) Complete and maintain records and regulatory reporting forms required to document the proper operation of a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage systems.

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

The agency has oversight authority over certified professional operators. The agency can suspend or revoke the certificate of an operator. The Agency may also fine a certified professional operator. In cases of criminal activity, there are provisions that allow the criminal prosecution of a certified professional operator.

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

In SFY 2024, Ohio EPA received \$233,943 from certification and renewal fees associated with the operator certification program. That money is used to fund a portion of Ohio's operator certification program. Other funds are used to supplement the fees to fully fund the program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

U.S. EPA's Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems; Notice, 64 FR 5915 (February 5, 1999) require the state to establish an operator certification program that meets the requirements of the guidelines. Failure to maintain a program will result in US EPA withholding 20% of the capitalization grant funds that support, Ohio's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulation seeks to ensure that public water and wastewater systems are operated by well trained and qualified individuals to ensure the protection of public health. The regulations ensure the people in charge of the technical operation have the experience necessary to perform daily process control to guarantee protection of the public and the environment. The regulation is part of a multi barrier approach to ensuring that the citizens of Ohio have clean drinking water and are able to enjoy Ohio's natural resources.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the certification program ensures appropriately certified professional operators who have an appropriate amount of education, experience and technical expertise operate and oversee systems that distribute potable water to citizens of the state of Ohio. Failure to have qualified operators making process control decisions at treatment facilities would result in contamination of drinking water and pose a threat to citizens of the state of Ohio. These operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment.

Yes, the regulation is very effective at preventing harm. Ohio EPA does not believe there is a less restrictive way to prevent harm.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

We do not believe any major changes need to be implemented. Minor changes are handled through the State's five-year rule review process. Any changes that need to be made in the program are handled through this process. The operator certification rules are in the final stages of rule-making. Changes requested by stakeholders should be effective by the end of 2024.

Survey response for public water system professional operator I, II, III, and IV (EPA)

Description

Public water system operators (Water Supply) Class I, II, III, and IV oversee the technical operations of small to large public water systems through Ohio. They inspect and repair equipment, treat water by ensuring the proper dosage of chemicals, and testing is performed to ensure that the water sent to customers is adequate and safe to consume.

Type (*License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.*)

Certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually	The number of newly issued certificates vary by year, but in SFY24, 293 Water Treatment certificates (excluding Class A) were issued.
Number renewed annually	The number of renewed certificates vary by year, but in SFY24, 1,358 Water Treatment certificates (excluding Class A) were renewed.
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	No

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Education or training requirements	Certification requires a minimum high school diploma, or its equivalent.
Experience requirements	<p>Water Treatment Class 1: 12 months operating experience</p> <p>Water Treatment Class 2: 36 months operating experience</p> <p>Water Treatment Class 3: 60 months operating experience and 12 months while holding a valid Class 2 certificate in the wastewater field.</p> <p>Water Treatment Class 4: 3 years of operating experience at a Class 3 or 4 facility, and 2 of those years, holding management experience.</p> <p>* Reductions available for Class 2 and 3 operators with post high school education in an approved field of study.</p> <p>*Substitution credit for experience requires are available for Class 2 and 3 operators based on successfully passes approved training in the field of water.</p>
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?)</i>	Examinations are given by an approved third-party examination provider, Water Professionals International, through their testing contractor that has 10 testing locations in Ohio, locations in other states and locations in other countries. Third party exam providers can apply to Ohio EPA to be approved in accordance with provisions in OAC Rule 3745-7-19. Fees include the cost of the examination fee which is paid to the test administrator (currently \$112) and the certification fee (\$45) which is paid to Ohio EPA. Fees are used to cover a portion of the cost of the operator certification program.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	<p>Class I operator must submit 12 contact hours and Class II, III, IV operators must submit 24 hours to renew their license.</p> <p>Within the hour requirement, at least 50% of those hours must be on a topic related to operations and maintenance (O&M) in the field of wastewater. A 25% reduction in the contact hours requirement is also available if the operator holds multiple certificates. Ohio EPA approves courses for contact hours, in both water and wastewater, and determines if the topic</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	is related to O&M, or 'other' (like safety or management courses) from over 455 training providers. In SFY24, there were 3,581 different courses offered 13,306 times to operators.
Initial fee	The initial fee is the application for certification fee discussed above \$45.
Duration	2 years
Renewal fee <i>(If different from initial fee, please explain why.)</i>	Class A operator - \$25; Class I operator - \$35; Class II operator - \$45; Class III operator - \$55; Class IV operator - \$65 The renewal fees are established in ORC 3745.11(O).
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	Provisions in the operator certification rules allow for reciprocity.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	There are no national registrations, certifications or licenses.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes, an operator may work at a water treatment plant without being certified. The only person required to be certified is the operator of record for the plant.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	There are provisions in the operator certification rules that make an operator ineligible for certification, but the agency does not have discretion in determining whether to certify an individual. The provisions that make an operator ineligible are as follows: (1) Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a criminal charge involving falsification, fraud, or terrorism.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

	<p>(2) At the time of application and prior to the examination date, not have a revoked or currently suspended Ohio professional operator certification.</p> <p>(3) Not have a professional operator certificate from any other state currently revoked or under suspension.</p> <p>(4) Not have performed the duties of a professional operator of record without a valid certificate of the appropriate field and classification, unless in accordance with the exemptions and exceptions contained in chapter 3745-7 of the Administrative Code.</p>
<p>Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)</p>	<p>Applicants must have the ability to do the following:</p> <p>(a) Read and understand Chapters 6109. and 6111. of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder.</p> <p>(b) Perform mathematical calculations required to operate in the field for which certification is being sought.</p> <p>(c) Complete and maintain records and regulatory reporting forms required to document the proper operation of a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage systems.</p>

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

The agency has oversight authority over certified professional operators. The agency can suspend or revoke the certificate of an operator. The Agency may also fine a certified professional operator. In cases of criminal activity, there are provisions that allow the criminal prosecution of a certified professional operator.

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

In SFY 2024, Ohio EPA received \$233,943 from certification and renewal fees associated with the operator certification program. That money is used to fund a portion of Ohio's operator certification program. Other funds are used to supplement the fees to fully fund the program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

U.S. EPA's Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems; Notice, 64 FR 5915 (February 5, 1999) require the state to establish an operator certification program that meets the requirements of the guidelines. Failure to maintain a program will result in US EPA withholding 20% of the capitalization grant funds that support, Ohio's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulation seeks to ensure that public water and wastewater systems are operated by well trained and qualified individuals to ensure the protection of public health. The regulations ensure the people in charge of the technical operation have the experience necessary to perform daily process control to guarantee protection of the public and the environment. The regulation is part of a multi barrier approach to ensuring that the citizens of Ohio have clean drinking water and are able to enjoy Ohio's natural resources.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the certification program ensures appropriately certified professional operators who have an appropriate amount of education, experience and technical expertise operate and oversee systems that distribute potable water to citizens of the state of Ohio. Failure to have qualified operators making process control decisions at treatment facilities would result in contamination of drinking water and pose a threat to citizens of the state of Ohio. These operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment.

Yes, the regulation is very effective at preventing harm. Ohio EPA does not believe there is a less restrictive way to prevent harm.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

We do not believe any major changes need to be implemented. Minor changes are handled through the State's five-year rule review process. Any changes that need to be made in the program are handled through this process. The operator certification rules are in the final stages of rule-making. Changes requested by stakeholders should be effective by the end of 2024.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC) (as of August 15, 2024)

Drinking Water Treatment Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation	License	License	License	License	License	License
(Name of regulation)	(Public Water System Professional Operator) <i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-02(A)(1), 3745-7-</i>	(Certified operator of a public water system water treatment plant) <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-1 and 8-12-1.1)</i>	(Water Treatment Plant Operator) <i>(Ky. Rev. Stat. 223.160)</i>	(Treatment System Certified Operator) <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11901 and 325.11905(1))</i>	(Water System Operator) <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.104)</i>	(Public Water System (PWS) Operator) <i>(W. Va. Code R. 64-4-4.1.4 to 64-4-4.1.7, 64-4-5.1, and 64-4-5.2)</i>

Drinking Water Treatment Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	<i>05(A)(1) to (6), and 3754-7-06)</i>					
Education or training	<p>High school diploma or equivalent</p> <p>Read and understand Ohio laws and regulations</p> <p>Be able to perform mathematical calculations for field operation</p> <p>Complete and maintain forms required for operating a public water system</p> <p>Completion of the Ohio EPA Professional Operator Certification Training course</p> <p><i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-06 (B)(5), (6), and (7))</i></p>	<p>High school diploma or equivalent</p> <p>Possess educational skills regarding computations, calculations, record-keeping, sanitation, and science principles, and read and write English</p> <p>Can maintain inventories, order supplies and equipment, and interpret chemical and bacteriological sample reports</p> <p><i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-3(b) and 3.2(c))</i></p>	<p>Class IA-D, IIA, IIIA, IB-D, IIB-D, IIIB: High school diploma or GED</p> <p>Class IVA, IVB: Bachelor's degree in engineering or biological, environmental, physical, or chemical science, or equivalent</p> <p><i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:040, section 2)</i></p>	<p>Educational points required to take exam</p> <p><i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11911; Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, State of Michigan Requirements for Certification, pages 6 through 9 (PDF))</i></p>	<p>High school diploma or GED or experience equivalency</p> <p><i>(25 Pa. Code 302.701)</i></p>	<p>Class 1D: Passing a commissioner-approved 1D course</p> <p>Class R: High school diploma or GED, passing commissioner-approved Class R course</p> <p>Class, I, II, III, IV: High school diploma or GED</p> <p>--Class I, II must pass an approved certification course;</p> <p>--Class III, IV must complete certain amounts of continuing education units (CEUs) which are earned from taking continuing education hour</p>

Drinking Water Treatment Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
						courses, college courses, or work experience <i>(W. Va. Code R. Table 64-4A and Table 64-4B)</i>
Experience	<p>Class A: 520 to 1,040 hours of operating experience and one to three years of working experience</p> <p>Class I: One year of working experience</p> <p>Class II: Three years of operating experience</p> <p>Class III: Five years of operating experience including one year of operating experience at the Class II level</p>	<p>Grade WT 1: A minimum of one year of work experience operating a Class WT 1 water treatment plant (WTP)</p> <p>Grade WT 2: Either (1) one year in the operation of a Class WT 2 WTP or (2) two years in a Class WT 1 WTP</p> <p>Grade WT 3: Either (1) two years of operation of a Class WT 3 WTP or (2) completion of college-level</p>	<p>Class IA-D: One year of operation of a Subclass A PWS</p> <p>Class 1B-D: One year of operation of a Subclass A or B PWS</p> <p>Class IIA: Two years of operating a WTP with six months in a Class IIA, IIIA, or IVA WTP</p> <p>Class IIB-D: Two years of operating a WTP with six months in a Class 1A-D, IIB-D, or higher WTP</p>	<p>Experience points required to take exam</p> <p><i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11911; Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, State of Michigan Requirements for Certification, pages 6 through 9 (PDF))</i></p>	<p>Minimum experience requirements:</p> <p>Class A: Four years</p> <p>Class B: Three years</p> <p>Class C: Two years</p> <p>Class D, E: One year</p> <p>Class Dc, Dn: Six months</p> <p>*Experience requirements can be reduced by completing additional education beyond minimal education</p>	<p>Class R: N/A</p> <p>Class I: 2,000 hours at a PWS</p> <p>Class II: 4,000 hours at a Class II or higher PWS</p> <p>Class III: 8,000 hours at a Class I or higher PWS with at least 2,000 hours at a Class II or higher PWS</p> <p>Class IV: 10,000 hours at a Class 1 or higher PWS with at least 2,000 hours at a Class III or higher PWS</p> <p><i>(W. Va. Code R. Table 64-4a)</i></p>

Drinking Water Treatment Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	<p>Class IV: Three years of operating experience while in possession of a valid Class III certification with two of those years at a Class III or IV facility</p> <p><i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-06(B)(8) and (C)(2))</i></p>	<p>educational work in engineering, chemistry, or science</p> <p>Grade WT 4: Either (1) two years of operating a Class WT 3 WTP or (2) completion of college-level educational work in engineering, chemistry, or science</p> <p>Grade WT 5: Either (1) three years of operating a Class WT 5 WTP or (2) five years of operating a Class 4 WTP</p> <p>Also must complete college-level educational work</p> <p>Grade WT 6: Meet qualifications determined on</p>	<p>Class IIIA: Three years of operating a public WTP with one year in a Class IIA, IIIA, or IVA WTP</p> <p>Class IIIB: Three years of operating a public WTP with one year in a Class IIA, IIB-D, IIIA, IIIB, IVA, or IVB WTP</p> <p>Class IVA: One year of operating a Class IIIA or IVA public WTP</p> <p>Class IVB: One year of operating a Class IIIA, IIIB, IVA, or IVB public WTP</p> <p><i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:040, section 2)</i></p>		<p>requirements (described above)</p> <p><i>(25 Pa. Code 302.703)</i></p>	

Drinking Water Treatment Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
		individual WTP basis <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-3.2(c))</i>				
Exam	Yes <i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-06)</i>	Yes, unless exempted by statute or rule <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-3(a)(2))</i>	Yes <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:050, section 1(1)(b))</i>	Yes, except for Class F-5 (which class covers complete treatment systems for noncommunity supplies) <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11912(1))</i>	Yes <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.702(b); Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection, State Bd. of Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators, Exam Schedule)</i>	Yes <i>(W. Va. Code R. 64-4-9 and Table 64-4A)</i>
Continuing education	Class A: Eight hours Class I: 12 hours Class II, III, IV: 24 hours <i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-15(D)(1))</i>	Grade WT 1: Ten hours Grade WT 2: 15 hours Grade WT 3: 25 hours Grade WT 4, WT 5, WT 6: 30 hours	Class I, II: 12 hours Class III, IV: 24 hours <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:050, section 3(5)(e))</i>	Class 1, 2: 24 hours Class 3: 24 hours Class 4: 12 hours Class 5: Nine hours <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11915(2))</i>	Class A, B, C: 30 hours Class D, E: 15 hours Class Dc: Nine hours Class Dn: Six hours	Class 1D: N/A Class R: One hour Class I: 12 hours Class II, III, IV: 24 hours <i>(W. Va. Code R. 64-4-10.3)</i>

Drinking Water Treatment Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
		<i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-7.5(b))</i>			<i>(25 Pa. Code 302.803(a)(2))</i>	
Initial licensure fee	\$45 <i>(R.C. 3745.11(O))</i>	\$30 <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-5(a)(1))</i>	\$250 <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:060, section 1(1)(a))</i>	N/A	Class A, B, C, D: \$150 Class E, Dc: \$100 Class Dn: N/A <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.202(e))</i>	N/A
License duration	Two years <i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-15(A))</i>	Three years <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-5(a)(3) and 8-12-7.5(a))</i>	Two years <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:050, section 2(2))</i>	Three years <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11915(1))</i>	Three years <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.802)</i>	Two years <i>(W. Va. Code R. 64-4-10.5)</i>
Renewal fee	Class A: \$25 Class I: \$35 Class II: \$45 Class III: \$55 Class IV: \$65 <i>(R.C. 3745.11(O))</i>	\$30 <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-5(a)(3))</i>	\$200 <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:060, section 1(1)(b))</i>	\$95 <i>(Mich. Comp. Laws 324.3110(3)(f))</i>	\$60 <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.202(e))</i>	N/A

Treatment works professional operator

Survey response for sewage system professional operator I and II (EPA)

Description

Sewage system (Collection System) Class I and II operators repair and maintain wastewater collection systems such as sanitary sewers, storm drains and pump stations. They ensure that sanitary or storm water and collected appropriately and transferred to the wastewater treatment plant.

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)

Certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually

The number of newly issued certificates vary by year, but in SFY24, 84 Wastewater Collection certificates were issued.

Number renewed annually

The number of renewed certificates vary by year, but in SFY24, 320 Wastewater Collection certificates were renewed.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	No.
Education or training requirements	Certification requires a high school diploma, or its equivalent
Experience requirements	<p>Wastewater Collection Class 1: 12 months operating experience</p> <p>Wastewater Collection Class 2: 36 months operating experience</p> <p>* Reductions available for Class 2 operators with post high school education in an approved field of study.</p> <p>*Substitution credit for experience requires are available for Class 2 operators based on successfully passes approved training in the field of water.</p>
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	Examinations are given by an approved third-party examination provider, Water Professionals International, through their testing contractor that has 10 testing locations in Ohio, locations in other states and locations in other countries. Third party exam providers can apply to Ohio EPA to be approved in accordance with provisions in OAC Rule 3745-7-19. Fees include the cost of the examination fee which is paid to the test administrator (currently \$112) and the certification fee (\$45) which is paid to Ohio EPA. Fees are used to cover a portion of the cost of the operator certification program.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	Wastewater Collection Class 1 and 2 operators must submit 12 contact hours to renew their certificate. Within the hour requirement, at least 50% of those hours must be on a topic related to operations and maintenance (O&M) in the field of wastewater. A 25% reduction in the contact hours requirement is also available if the operator holds multiple certificates. Ohio EPA approves courses for contact hours, in both water and wastewater, and determines if the topic is related to O&M, or 'other' (like safety or management courses) from over 455 training providers. In SFY24, there were 3,581 different courses offered 13,306 times to operators.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Initial fee	The initial fee is the application for certification fee discussed above \$45.
Duration	2 years
Renewal fee <i>(If different from initial fee, please explain why.)</i>	Class I operator - \$35; Class II operator - \$45 The renewal fees are established in ORC 3745.11(O).
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	Provisions in the operator certification rules allow for reciprocity.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	There are no national registrations, certifications or licenses.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes, an operator may work at a wastewater collection system without being certified. The only person required to be certified is the operator of record for the system.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	There are provisions in the operator certification rules that make an operator ineligible for certification, but the agency does not have discretion in determining whether to certify an individual. The provisions that make an operator ineligible are as follows: (1) Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a criminal charge involving falsification, fraud, or terrorism. (2) At the time of application and prior to the examination date, not have a revoked or currently suspended Ohio professional operator certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	<p>(3) Not have a professional operator certificate from any other state currently revoked or under suspension.</p> <p>(4) Not have performed the duties of a professional operator of record without a valid certificate of the appropriate field and classification, unless in accordance with the exemptions and exceptions contained in chapter 3745-7 of the Administrative Code.</p>
Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)	<p>Applicants must have the ability to do the following:</p> <p>(a) Read and understand Chapters 6109. and 6111. of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder.</p> <p>(b) Perform mathematical calculations required to operate in the field for which certification is being sought.</p> <p>(c) Complete and maintain records and regulatory reporting forms required to document the proper operation of a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage systems.</p>
Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.	
<p>The agency has oversight authority over certified professional operators. The agency can suspend or revoke the certificate of an operator. The Agency may also fine a certified professional operator. In cases of criminal activity, there are provisions that allow the criminal prosecution of a certified professional operator.</p>	

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

In SFY 2024, Ohio EPA received \$233,943 from certification and renewal fees associated with the operator certification program. That money is used to fund a portion of Ohio's operator certification program. Other funds are used to supplement the fees to fully fund the program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

U.S. EPA's Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems; Notice, 64 FR 5915 (February 5, 1999) require the state to establish an operator certification program that meets the requirements of the guidelines for drinking water operators. Ohio's program was established in 1935 and wastewater treatment operators have been paired with the drinking water operators. Federal law does not require the regulation of wastewater treatment operators.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulation seeks to ensure that public water and wastewater systems are operated by well trained and qualified individuals to ensure the protection of public health. The regulations ensure the people in charge of the technical operation have the experience necessary to perform daily process control to guarantee protection of the public and the environment. The regulation is part of a multi barrier approach to ensuring that the citizens of Ohio have clean drinking water and are able to enjoy Ohio's natural resources.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the certification program ensures appropriately certified professional operators who have an appropriate amount of education, experience and technical expertise operate and oversee wastewater collection systems. Failure to have qualified operators making process control decisions in collection systems would result in sewer overflows that would contaminate the environment and streams that serve as supplies of drinking water. These operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment.

Yes, the regulation is very effective at preventing harm. Ohio EPA does not believe there is a less restrictive way to prevent harm.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

We do not believe any major changes need to be implemented. Minor changes are handled through the State’s five-year rule review process. Any changes that need to be made in the program are handled through this process. The operator certification rules are in the final stages of rule-making. Changes requested by stakeholders should be effective by the end of 2024.

Survey response for treatment works professional operator A (EPA)

Description

Treatment works (Wastewater Treatment) Class A certification is an entry level certification into the field of wastewater treatment.

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)

Certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually	Newly issued wastewater treatment Class A certificates vary yearly, though in SFY24, 16 certificates were issued.
Number renewed annually	Wastewater Treatment Class A renewal certificates vary yearly, though in SFY24, 113 certificates were renewed (29 of these were limited Class A certificates).
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	No.
Education or training requirements	Minimum of high school diploma, or its equivalent.
Experience requirements	6 months (1,080 hours) of operating experience, or 3 years of working experience. Operating experience is hands on time operating a public water system. Working experience – means time spent at a job where a portion of the duties involve dealing with a public water system or treatment works.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	This time can be reduced based on post high school education in an approved degree program, or successfully completing Basic Water courses through California State University – Sacramento, or the Operator Training Committee of Ohio, Inc.
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	Examinations are given by an approved third-party examination provider, Water Professionals International, through their testing contractor that has 10 testing locations in Ohio, locations in other states and locations in other countries. Third party exam providers can apply to Ohio EPA to be approved in accordance with provisions in OAC Rule 3745-7-19. Fees include the cost of the examination fee which is paid to the test administrator (currently \$112) and the certification fee (\$45) which is paid to Ohio EPA. Fees are used to cover a portion of the cost of the operator certification program.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	Class A operator must submit 8 contact hours. Within the hour requirement, at least 50% of those hours must be on a topic related to operations and maintenance (O&M) in the field of wastewater. A 25% reduction in the contact hours requirement is also available if the operator holds multiple certificates. Ohio EPA approves courses for contact hours, in both water and wastewater, and determines if the topic is related to O&M, or ‘other’ (like safety or management courses) from over 455 training providers. In SFY24, there were 3,581 different courses offered 13,306 times to operators.
Initial fee	The initial fee is the application for certification fee discussed above \$45.
Duration	2 years.
Renewal fee (<i>If different from initial fee, please explain why.</i>)	\$25 The renewal fees are established in ORC 3745.11(O).
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	Provisions in the operator certification rules allow for reciprocity.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	There are no national registrations, certifications or licenses.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes, an operator may work at a water treatment plant without being certified. The only person required to be certified is the operator of record for the plant.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	<p>There are provisions in the operator certification rules that make an operator ineligible for certification, but the agency does not have discretion in determining whether to certify an individual. The provisions that make an operator ineligible are as follows:</p> <p>(1) Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a criminal charge involving falsification, fraud, or terrorism.</p> <p>(2) At the time of application and prior to the examination date, not have a revoked or currently suspended Ohio professional operator certification.</p> <p>(3) Not have a professional operator certificate from any other state currently revoked or under suspension.</p> <p>(4) Not have performed the duties of a professional operator of record without a valid certificate of the appropriate field and classification, unless in accordance with the exemptions and exceptions contained in chapter 3745-7 of the Administrative Code.</p>
Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)	<p>Applicants must have the ability to do the following:</p> <p>(a) Read and understand Chapters 6109. and 6111. of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder.</p> <p>(b) Perform mathematical calculations required to operate in the field for which certification is being sought.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

(c) Complete and maintain records and regulatory reporting forms required to document the proper operation of a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage systems.

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

The agency has oversight authority over certified professional operators. The agency can suspend or revoke the certificate of an operator. The Agency may also fine a certified professional operator. In cases of criminal activity, there are provisions that allow the criminal prosecution of a certified professional operator.

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

In SFY 2024, Ohio EPA received \$233,943 from certification and renewal fees associated with the operator certification program. That money is used to fund a portion of Ohio's operator certification program. Other funds are used to supplement the fees to fully fund the program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

U.S. EPA's Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems; Notice, 64 FR 5915 (February 5, 1999) require the state to establish an operator certification program that meets the requirements of the guidelines for drinking water operators. Ohio's program was established in 1935 and wastewater treatment operators have been paired with the drinking water operators. Federal law does not require the regulation of wastewater treatment operators.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulation seeks to ensure that public water and wastewater systems are operated by well trained and qualified individuals to ensure the protection of public health. The regulations ensure the people in charge of the technical operation have the experience necessary to perform daily process control to guarantee protection of the public and the environment. The regulation is part of a multi barrier approach to ensuring that the citizens of Ohio have clean drinking water and are able to enjoy Ohio's natural resources.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the certification program ensures appropriately certified professional operators who have an appropriate amount of education, experience and technical expertise operate and oversee wastewater treatment plants. Failure to have qualified operators making process control decisions at treatment facilities would result in contamination of the environment and streams that serve as supplies of drinking water. These operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment.

Yes, the regulation is very effective at preventing harm. Ohio EPA does not believe there is a less restrictive way to prevent harm.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

We do not believe any major changes need to be implemented. Minor changes are handled through the State's five-year rule review process. Any changes that need to be made in the program are handled through this process. The operator certification rules are in the final stages of rule-making. Changes requested by stakeholders should be effective by the end of 2024.

Survey response for treatment works professional operator I, II, III, and IV (EPA)

Description

Treatment works (Wastewater Treatment) professional operators oversee the operations and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants. They ensure that effluent water exiting the treatment plant meets discharge permit standards set by the Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water.

Type *(License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)*

Certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually	The number of newly issued certificates vary by year, but in SFY24, 328 Wastewater Treatment certificates (excluding Class A) were issued.
Number renewed annually	The number of renewed certificates vary by year, but in SFY24, 1,537 Wastewater Treatment certificates (excluding Class A) were renewed.
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	No

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Education or training requirements	Certification requires a minimum high school diploma, or its equivalent.
Experience requirements	<p>Wastewater Treatment Class 1: 12 months operating experience</p> <p>Wastewater Treatment Class 2: 36 months operating experience</p> <p>Wastewater Treatment Class 3: 60 months operating experience and 12 months while holding a valid Class 2 certificate in the wastewater field.</p> <p>Wastewater Treatment Class 4: 3 years of operating experience at a Class 3 or 4 facility, with 2 of those years, obtaining management experience.</p> <p>* Reductions available for Class 2 and 3 operators with post high school education in an approved field of study.</p> <p>*Substitution credit for experience requires are available for Class 2 and 3 operators based on successfully passes approved training in the field of water.</p>
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?)</i>	Examinations are given by an approved third-party examination provider, Water Professionals International, through their testing contractor that has 10 testing locations in Ohio, locations in other states and locations in other countries. Third party exam providers can apply to Ohio EPA to be approved in accordance with provisions in OAC Rule 3745-7-19. Fees include the cost of the examination fee which is paid to the test administrator (currently \$112) and the certification fee (\$45) which is paid to Ohio EPA. Fees are used to cover a portion of the cost of the operator certification program.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	Class I operator must submit 12 contact hours and Class II, III, IV operators must submit 24 hours to renew their license. Within the hour requirement, at least 50% of those hours must be on a topic related to operations and maintenance (O&M) in the field of wastewater. A 25% reduction in the contact hours requirement is also available if the operator holds multiple certificates. Ohio EPA approves courses for contact hours, in both water and wastewater, and determines if the topic is related to O&M, or 'other' (like safety or management courses) from over 455 training providers. In SFY24, there were 3,581 different courses offered 13,306 times to operators.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Initial fee	The initial fee is the application for certification fee discussed above \$45.
Duration	2 years
Renewal fee <i>(If different from initial fee, please explain why.)</i>	Class I operator - \$35; Class II operator - \$45; Class III operator - \$55; Class IV operator - \$65 The renewal fees are established in ORC 3745.11(O).
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	Provisions in the operator certification rules allow for reciprocity.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	There are no national registrations, certifications or licenses.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes, an operator may work at a wastewater treatment plant without being certified. The only person required to be certified is the operator of record for the facility.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	There are provisions in the operator certification rules that make an operator ineligible for certification, but the agency does not have discretion in determining whether to certify an individual. The provisions that make an operator ineligible are as follows: (1) Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a criminal charge involving falsification, fraud, or terrorism. (2) At the time of application and prior to the examination date, not have a revoked or currently suspended Ohio professional operator certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	<p>(3) Not have a professional operator certificate from any other state currently revoked or under suspension.</p> <p>(4) Not have performed the duties of a professional operator of record without a valid certificate of the appropriate field and classification, unless in accordance with the exemptions and exceptions contained in chapter 3745-7 of the Administrative Code.</p>
<p>Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)</p>	<p>Applicants must have the ability to do the following:</p> <p>(a) Read and understand Chapters 6109. and 6111. of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder.</p> <p>(b) Perform mathematical calculations required to operate in the field for which certification is being sought.</p> <p>(c) Complete and maintain records and regulatory reporting forms required to document the proper operation of a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage systems.</p>
Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.	
<p>The agency has oversight authority over certified professional operators. The agency can suspend or revoke the certificate of an operator. The Agency may also fine a certified professional operator. In cases of criminal activity, there are provisions that allow the criminal prosecution of a certified professional operator.</p>	

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

In SFY 2024, Ohio EPA received \$233,943 from certification and renewal fees associated with the operator certification program. That money is used to fund a portion of Ohio's operator certification program. Other funds are used to supplement the fees to fully fund the program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

U.S. EPA's Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems; Notice, 64 FR 5915 (February 5, 1999) require the state to establish an operator certification program that meets the requirements of the guidelines for drinking water operators. Ohio's program was established in 1935 and wastewater treatment operators have been paired with the drinking water operators. Federal law does not require the regulation of wastewater treatment operators.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulation seeks to ensure that public water and wastewater systems are operated by well trained and qualified individuals to ensure the protection of public health. The regulations ensure the people in charge of the technical operation have the experience necessary to perform daily process control to guarantee protection of the public and the environment. The regulation is part of a multi barrier approach to ensuring that the citizens of Ohio have clean drinking water and are able to enjoy Ohio's natural resources.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the certification program ensures appropriately certified professional operators who have an appropriate amount of education, experience and technical expertise operate and oversee wastewater treatment plants. Failure to have qualified operators making process control decisions at treatment facilities would result in contamination of the environment and streams that serve as supplies of drinking water. These operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment.

Yes, the regulation is very effective at preventing harm. Ohio EPA does not believe there is a less restrictive way to prevent harm.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

We do not believe any major changes need to be implemented. Minor changes are handled through the State's five-year rule review process. Any changes that need to be made in the program are handled through this process. The operator certification rules are in the final stages of rule-making. Changes requested by stakeholders should be effective by the end of 2024.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC) (as of July 26, 2024)

Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia do not require a separate license for wastewater collection, but rather it is included in their wastewater treatment licenses. Ohio and Kentucky require a separate license for wastewater collection, however, the requirements are often parallel to the requirements for wastewater treatment licenses, and thus, are included in the table below.

Wastewater System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation (Name of regulation)	License (Treatment works professional)	License (Nonindustrial wastewater treatment certified operator)	License (Wastewater system operator certification)	License (Municipal wastewater operator certification (Class A, B, C, D, E))	License (Wastewater operator certification (Class A, B, C, D, E))	License (Wastewater operator certification (Class H, S, C, I, II, III, IV))

Wastewater System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	<p>operators (Class A, I, II, III, IV))</p> <p>(Sewerage system (a.k.a. wastewater collection system) professional operators (Class I, II))</p> <p>(R.C. 6109.31 and 6111.46)</p>	<p>(Class I-SP, I, II, III, IV))</p> <p>(Wastewater treatment certified operator (Class A-SO, A, B, C, D))</p> <p>(Ind. Code 13-18-11-14; 327 Ind. Admin. Code 5-23-3 and 5-23-4)</p>	<p>(Treatment Class I, II, III, IV))</p> <p>(Collection Class I, II, III, IV)</p> <p>(Ky. Rev. Stat. 224.73-110; 401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:030)</p>	<p>A, B, C, D, L1, L2, SC))</p> <p>(Mich. Comp. Laws 324.3110; Mich. Admin. Code R. 299.2911)</p>	<p>(25 Pa. Code 302.104)</p>	<p>(W. Va. Code 16-1-9; W. Va. Code R. 64-5-4)</p>
Education or training	<p>High school diploma or equivalent</p> <p>Completion of the OEPA Professional Operator Certification Training course</p> <p>(O.A.C. 3745-7-06)</p>	<p>High school diploma or equivalent or experience exemption (most of the classes)</p> <p>Class IV/Class D: Applicable associate's or bachelor's degree</p> <p>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 5-23-9)</p>	<p>Class I, II, III: High school diploma or equivalent</p> <p>Class IV: Applicable bachelor's degree</p> <p>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:030)</p>	<p>Class A: Applicable bachelor's degree or two years of completed college curriculum if applicant has additional specified experience</p> <p>Class B: One year of college within applicable curriculum</p>	<p>High school diploma or equivalent</p> <p>(25 Pa. Code 302.701)</p>	<p>High school diploma or equivalent, but will waive on written request, if completion of tenth grade, with a minimum 2.0 GPA</p> <p>(W. Va. Code R. 64-5-7 and Table 64-5B)</p> <p>Commissioner-approved</p>

Wastewater System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
				Class C, D, L1, L2, SC: High school diploma or equivalent <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 299.2918)</i>		certification course
Experience	<p>Class A: 520 to 1,040 hours of operating experience (depending on education) and one to three years of working experience (depending on education)</p> <p>Class I: One year of operating experience</p> <p>Class II: Three years of operating experience</p> <p>Class III: Five years of operating experience including one year</p>	<p>Class I-SP/Class A-SO: Three months of acceptable work experience</p> <p>Class I/Class A: Nine months of acceptable work experience</p> <p>Class II/Class B: Two years of acceptable work experience</p> <p>Class III/Class C: Three years of acceptable work experience</p> <p>Class IV/Class D: Five years of acceptable work experience</p>	<p>Class I: One year of operating experience</p> <p>Class II: Two years of operating experience</p> <p>Class III: Three years of operating experience, partially in larger facility</p> <p>Class IV: Three years of operating experience, partially in larger facility <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:030)</i></p>	<p>Class A: Possession of a Class B certificate and four years of operating experience at that level, two of which in a supervisory position or six years of operating experience at that level, if applicant does not have bachelor's degree</p> <p>Class B: Possession of a Class C certificate and four years of operating experience at that level, two of which in a</p>	<p>Class A: Four years of operating experience</p> <p>Class B: Three years of operating experience</p> <p>Class C: Two years of operating experience</p> <p>Class D: One year of operating experience</p> <p>Class E: One year of operating experience</p> <p>*A reduction of necessary experience is available if the applicant meets</p>	<p>18 years of age, with potential waiver at 16 years on written request <i>(W. Va. Code R. 64-5-6)</i></p> <p>Class H, S, C: N/A</p> <p>Class I: One year of operating experience as operator in training</p> <p>Class II: Two years of operating experience as Class I</p> <p>Class III: Four years of operating experience, one</p>

Wastewater System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	<p>as a Class II operator</p> <p>Class IV: Three years of operating experience as a Class III certification with specified management experience (O.A.C. 3745-7-06)</p>	<p>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 5-23-9)</p>		<p>supervisory position</p> <p>Class C: Possession of a Class D certificate and two years of operating experience</p> <p>Class D, L1, L2, SC: One year of acceptable operating experience (Mich. Admin. Code R. 299.2918)</p>	<p>certain education requirements</p> <p>(25 Pa. Code 302.703)</p>	<p>year of which as a Class II</p> <p>Class IV: Five years of operating experience, two years of which as a Class III (W. Va. Code R. Table 64-5B)</p>
Exam	<p>Yes</p> <p>(O.A.C. 3745-7-20)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 5-23-11)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:050)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 299.2918 and 299.2922)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>(25 Pa. Code 302.702)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>(W. Va. Code R. 64-5-6 and 64-5-9)</p>
Continuing education	<p>Class A: Eight hours every renewal cycle</p> <p>Class I (treatment and collection), Class II (collection): 12</p>	<p>Class I-SP/Class A-SO: Eight hours every renewal cycle</p> <p>Class I, II/Class A, B: 15 hours every renewal cycle</p>	<p>Class I, II: 12 hours every renewal cycle</p> <p>Class III, IV: 24 hours every renewal cycle</p>	<p>Class A, B: 24 hours every renewal cycle</p> <p>Class C, D, L1, L2: 12 hours every renewal cycle</p>	<p>Class A, B, C: 30 hours every renewal cycle (15 hours first three-year cycle)</p> <p>Class D, E: 15 hours every</p>	<p>Class S: Three hours every renewal cycle</p> <p>Class C: Six hours every renewal cycle</p>

Wastewater System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	hours every renewal cycle Class II, III, and IV (treatment): 24 hours every renewal cycle (O.A.C. 3745-7-15)	Class III, IV/Class C, D: 30 hours every renewal cycle (327 Ind. Admin. Code 5-23-14)	(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:050)	(Mich. Admin. Code R. 299.2925)	renewal cycle (eight hours first three-year cycle) (25 Pa. Code 302.803)	Class I, II: 12 hours every renewal cycle Class III, IV: 24 hours every renewal cycle Class H: N/A (W. Va. Code R. 64-5-10)
Initial licensure fee	\$45 plus exam fee of \$80 to \$145 depending on classification (R.C. 3745.11)	\$30 plus exam fee of \$45 (Ind. Code 13-18-11-5)	\$250 (401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:060)	Class A, B, C, D: \$70 Class L1, L2, SC: \$45 (Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy: Water Resources Division, Application for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification (PDF))	Class A, B, C, D: \$150 plus \$35 exam fee Class E: \$100 plus \$35 exam fee (25 Pa. Code 302.202)	Class H, S, C: \$100 Class I: \$125 Class II: 150 Class III: \$175 Class IV: \$200 (W. Va. Code R. Table 64-5A)

Wastewater System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
License duration	Two years <i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-15)</i>	Three years <i>(Ind. Code 13-18-11-6.5)</i>	Two years <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:050)</i>	Three years <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 299.2924)</i>	Three years <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.301)</i>	Two years <i>(W. Va. Code R. 64-5-11)</i>
Renewal fee	Class A: \$25 Class I: \$35 Class II: \$45 Class III: \$55 Class IV: \$65 <i>(R.C. 3745.11)</i>	\$30 <i>(Ind. Code 13-18-11-6.5)</i>	\$200 <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:060)</i>	\$95 <i>(Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy: Water Resources Division, Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification Renewal Application (PDF))</i>	\$60 <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.202)</i>	Class H, S, C: \$100 Class I: \$125 Class II: 150 Class III: \$175 Class IV: \$200 <i>(W. Va. Code R. Table 64-5A)</i>

Waiver repair technician

Survey response (EPA)

Description

This is a technician who is qualified to perform emission related repairs for the E-Check vehicle testing program in the 7 county Cleveland area only.

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)

Ohio EPA/government certification.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually

~20

Number renewed annually

~7

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	There has been a significant decrease.
Education or training requirements	Must have technician ASE certification in Engine Performance (A8) and Electrical Systems (A6).
Experience requirements	No experience.
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	The company Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) charges to take their training courses and administer the exams. Depending on the course fees range from \$200 - \$300 per course for both course and exam. Just the exam ranges from \$30 - \$60.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	No continuing educational requirements.
Initial fee	See above Examination requirements.
Duration	2 years.
Renewal fee (<i>If different from initial fee, please explain why.</i>)	Cost of exams ~ \$30 - \$60

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	No.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	No.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	No.
Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)	None.
Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.	
There is no oversight other than if the agency were to receive a complaint.	

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

There are no fees so no revenue is derived.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

No.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

That customers select a technician qualified to make emissions related repairs to their vehicle.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Can be if customers select them. No.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

No.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC) (as of August 20, 2024)

Motor Vehicle Emissions Repair Professionals						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation (Name of regulation)	License (Certified waiver repair technician) <i>(R.C. 3704.14; O.A.C. 3745-26-16)</i>	License (Certified I/M emission repair technician) <i>(326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-10)</i>	No clear equivalent – Kentucky does not require emissions inspections	No clear equivalent – Michigan does not require emissions inspections	License (Certified repair technician) <i>(67 Pa. Code 177.275)</i>	No clear equivalent – West Virginia does not require emissions inspections

Motor Vehicle Emissions Repair Professionals						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Education or training	<p>Training curriculum sponsored or approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; or</p> <p>Possesses current Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification in Engine Performance (A8) and Electrical Systems (A6) and in Automobile Advanced Engine Performance (L1)</p> <p><i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-16)</i></p>	<p>Successfully completes Department-approved emission and drive-ability training program</p> <p>Certified as an ASE L1 (Advanced Engine Performance) technician</p> <p><i>(326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-10)</i></p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Successfully completes a course pertaining to the Pennsylvania emission inspection program and regulations and either holds specified additional certifications or has completed training related to repairing emission control systems</p> <p><i>(67 Pa. Code 177.275)</i></p>	N/A
Experience	<p>Possesses current ASE certification in Engine Performance (A8) and Electrical Systems (A6), ensuring that the</p>	<p>Professionally engaged in emission/drive-ability repair</p> <p><i>(326 Ind. Admin. Code 13-1.1-10)</i></p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Must be at least 18 years of age and hold a valid driver's license</p> <p><i>(67 Pa. Code 177.275)</i></p>	N/A

Motor Vehicle Emissions Repair Professionals						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	<p>technician has demonstrated competence in the area of basic emissions control systems.</p> <p>ASE certification in Automobile Advanced Engine Performance (L1) will be required of each applicant.</p> <p><i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-16)</i></p>					
Exam	<p>Yes, but may be waived by the Director of EPA (see "Education or Training," above)</p> <p><i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-16)</i></p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Yes</p> <p><i>(67 Pa. Code 177.275)</i></p>	N/A
Continuing education	<p>Additional training may be required</p> <p><i>(O.A.C. 3745-26-16)</i></p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Additional training may be required</p> <p><i>(67 Pa. Code 177.275)</i></p>	N/A

Motor Vehicle Emissions Repair Professionals						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Initial licensure fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
License duration	Two years (O.A.C. 3745-26-16)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Renewal fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Water distribution professional operator

Survey response (EPA)

(Operator I certification and operator II certification)

Description
Water distribution operators repair and maintain drinking water piping and equipment (like water towers) ensuring that adequate pressure is maintained throughout the system and drinking water flows to its customers.

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)

Certification

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually	Certificates issued vary based on year, but in SFY24, 141 water distribution certificates were issued.
Number renewed annually	Certificates renewed vary based on year, but in SFY24, 538 water distribution certificates were renewed.
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	No.
Education or training requirements	Certification requires a minimum of a high school diploma, or its equivalent.
Experience requirements	<p>Water Treatment Class 1: 12 months operating experience</p> <p>Water Treatment Class 2: 36 months operating experience</p> <p>*Reductions available for Class 2 operators with post high school education in an approved field of study.</p> <p>*Substitution credit for experience requires are available for Class 2 operators based on successfully passes approved training in the field of water.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Agency receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	Examinations are given by an approved third-party examination provider, Water Professionals International, through their testing contractor that has 10 testing locations in Ohio, locations in other states and locations in other countries. Third party exam providers can apply to Ohio EPA to be approved in accordance with provisions in OAC Rule 3745-7-19. Fees include the cost of the examination fee which is paid to the test administrator (currently \$112) and the certification fee (\$45) which is paid to Ohio EPA. Fees are used to cover a portion of the cost of the operator certification program.
Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)	Class I and II operators must submit 12 contact hours to renew their license. Within the hour requirement, at least 50% of those hours must be on a topic related to operations and maintenance (O&M) in the field of wastewater. A 25% reduction in the contact hours requirement is also available if the operator holds multiple certificates. Ohio EPA approves courses for contact hours, in both water and wastewater, and determines if the topic is related to O&M, or 'other' (like safety or management courses) from over 455 training providers. In SFY24, there were 3,581 different courses offered 13,306 times to operators.
Initial fee	The initial fee is the application for certification fee discussed above \$45.
Duration	2 years
Renewal fee (<i>If different from initial fee, please explain why.</i>)	Class I operator - \$35; Class II operator - \$45 The renewal fees are established in ORC 3745.11(O).
Does the Agency recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	Provisions in the operator certification rules allow for reciprocity.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	There are no national registrations, certifications or licenses.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Agency?	Yes, an operator may work on a distribution system without being certified. The only person required to be certified is the operator of record for the system.
Is the Agency permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	<p>There are provisions in the operator certification rules that make an operator ineligible for certification, but the agency does not have discretion in determining whether to certify an individual. The provisions that make an operator ineligible are as follows:</p> <p>(1) Not have been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a criminal charge involving falsification, fraud, or terrorism.</p> <p>(2) At the time of application and prior to the examination date, not have a revoked or currently suspended Ohio professional operator certification.</p> <p>(3) Not have a professional operator certificate from any other state currently revoked or under suspension.</p> <p>(4) Not have performed the duties of a professional operator of record without a valid certificate of the appropriate field and classification, unless in accordance with the exemptions and exceptions contained in chapter 3745-7 of the Administrative Code.</p>
Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)	<p>Applicants must have the ability to do the following:</p> <p>(a) Read and understand Chapters 6109. and 6111. of the Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder.</p> <p>(b) Perform mathematical calculations required to operate in the field for which certification is being sought.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

(c) Complete and maintain records and regulatory reporting forms required to document the proper operation of a public water system, treatment works, or sewerage systems.

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Agency respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

The agency has oversight authority over certified professional operators. The agency can suspend or revoke the certificate of an operator. The Agency may also fine a certified professional operator. In cases of criminal activity, there are provisions that allow the criminal prosecution of a certified professional operator.

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Agency to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

In SFY 2024, Ohio EPA received \$233,943 from certification and renewal fees associated with the operator certification program. That money is used to fund a portion of Ohio's operator certification program. Other funds are used to supplement the fees to fully fund the program.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

Yes, U.S. EPA's Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems; Notice, 64 FR 5915 (February 5, 1999) require the state to establish an operator certification program that meets the requirements of the guidelines. Failure to maintain a program will result in US EPA withholding 20% of the capitalization grant funds that support, Ohio's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulation seeks to ensure that public water and wastewater systems are operated by well trained and qualified individuals to ensure the protection of public health. The regulations ensure the people in charge of the technical operation have the experience necessary to perform daily process control to guarantee protection of the public and the environment. The regulation is part of a multi barrier approach to ensuring that the citizens of Ohio have clean drinking water and are able to enjoy Ohio's natural resources.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes, the certification program ensures appropriately certified professional operators who have an appropriate amount of education, experience and technical expertise operate and oversee systems that distribute potable water to citizens of the state of Ohio. Failure to have qualified operators making process control decisions at treatment facilities would result in contamination of drinking water and pose a threat to citizens of the state of Ohio. These operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment.

Yes, the regulation is very effective at preventing harm. Ohio EPA does not believe there is a less restrictive way to prevent harm.

Are there any changes the Agency would like to see implemented?

We do not believe any major changes need to be implemented. Minor changes are handled through the State's five-year rule review process. Any changes that need to be made in the program are handled through this process. The operator certification rules are in the final stages of rule-making. Changes requested by stakeholders should be effective by the end of 2024.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC) (as of August 20, 2024)

Drinking Water Distribution System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation (Name of regulation)	License (Water Distribution Professional Operator Class I and II) (O.A.C. 3745-7-02 (A)(1))	License (Water Distribution System (WDS) Operator) (327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-1.1)	License (WDS operator) (Ky. Rev. Stat. 223.160)	License (Water distribution operator) (Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11905(1))	License (Water distribution operator) (25 Pa. Code 302.104(a))	License (WDS operator) (W. Va. Code R. 64-4-5.1)
Education or training	High school diploma or equivalent Read and understand Ohio laws and regulations Complete and maintain forms for operating a public water system (PWS) Completion of the OEPA Professional Operator Certification Training course	High school diploma or its equivalent Possess certain educational skills such as making simple calculations and other mathematical operations, reading and writing the English language, and understanding basic sanitation and science principles	Class ID, IID, IIID: High school diploma or GED Class IVD: A bachelor's degree in engineering or biological, environmental, physical, or chemical science, or equivalent (401 Ky. Admin. Reg. 11:040, section 2(2))	Must meet certain educational point level to be licensed (point value commensurate with educational attainment) (Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11911; Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, State of Michigan Requirements for Certification)	High school diploma or a GED (25 Pa. Code 302.701(a))	High school diploma or GED Approved WDS course (W. Va. Code R. Table 64-4A)

Drinking Water Distribution System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	<i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-06 (B)(5), (6), and (7))</i>	<i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-3(b) and 8-12-3.2(b))</i>		<i>pages 6 through 9 (PDF)</i>		
Experience	<p>Class I Professional Operator: One year of operating experience</p> <p>Class II Professional Operator: Three years of operating experience</p> <p><i>(O.A.C. 3745-7-05 (A)(6) and (7) and 3745-7-06(B)(8))</i></p>	<p>Grade DSS: A minimum of one year of acceptable work experience in the operation of a Class DSS WDS</p> <p>Grade DSM: Either (1) one year operation of a Class DSM WDS or (2) two years operation of a Class DSS WDS</p> <p>Grade DSL: One of the following</p> <p>(1) one year operation of a Class DSL WDS,</p> <p>(2) three years operation of a Class DSM WDS,</p> <p>(3) five years operation of a Class DSS WDS, or</p> <p>(4) other</p>	<p>Class ID: One year of operating a WDS</p> <p>Class IID: Two years of operating a WDS, six months of which must be in a WDS serving a population of at least 1,500</p> <p>Class IIID: Three years of operating a WDS, one year of which must be in a WDS serving a population of at least 1,500</p> <p>Class IVD: One year of operating a WDS serving a population of at least 15,000</p>	<p>Must meet certain experience point level to be licensed (point value commensurate with experience)</p> <p><i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11911; Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, State of Michigan Requirements for Certification pages 6 through 9 (PDF))</i></p>	<p>Class E: One year (but six months if certain education attained)</p> <p><i>(25 Pa. Code 302.703(e))</i></p>	<p>1,000 hours (six months full time) at a WDS or higher PWS</p> <p><i>(W. Va. Code R. Table 64-4A)</i></p>

Drinking Water Distribution System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
		approved work experience in various WDS (327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-3.2(b))	(401 Ky. Admin. Reg. 11:040, section 2(2))			
Exam	Yes (O.A.C. 3745-7-06)	Yes, unless exempted by statute or rule (327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-3(a)(2))	Yes (401 Ky. Admin. Reg. 11:050, section 1(1)(b))	Yes, but exams for S-5 certificates may be any combination of training, written or oral exams, or performance-based exams approved by the advisory board (Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11912(1) and (4))	Yes (Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection, <u>State Bd. of Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators, Exam Schedule</u>)	Yes (W. Va. Code R. Table 64-4A)
Continuing education	Class I, II: 12 hours (O.A.C. 3745-7-15(D)(1))	Grade DSS: Ten hours Grade DSM, DSL: 15 hours (327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-7.5(b))	Class ID, IID: 12 hours Class IIID, IVD: 24 hours (401 Ky. Admin. Reg. 11:050, section 3(5)(e))	Class S-1, S-2, S-3: 24 hours Class S-4: 12 hours Class S-5: Nine hours	Class E: 15 hours (25 Pa. Code 302.803(a)(2))	Six hours (W. Va. Code R. 64-4-10.3.3)

Drinking Water Distribution System Operator						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
				<i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11915(2))</i>		
Initial licensure fee	\$45 <i>(R.C. 3745.11(O))</i>	\$30 <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-5(a)(1))</i>	\$250 <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:060, section 1(1)(a))</i>	Class S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4: \$70 Class S-5: \$45 <i>(Mich. Comp. Laws 324.3110(3)(c))</i>	\$100 <i>(25 Pa. Code 303.202(e))</i>	N/A
License duration	Two years <i>(R.C. 3745.11(O); O.A.C. 3745-7-17 (A))</i>	Three years <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-5(a)(3))</i>	Two years <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:050, section 2(2)(a))</i>	Three years <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 325.11915(1))</i>	Three years <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.301(f))</i>	Two years <i>(W. Va. Code R. 64-4-11)</i>
Renewal fee	Class I: \$35 Class II: \$45 <i>(R.C. 3745.11(O))</i>	\$30 <i>(327 Ind. Admin. Code 8-12-5(a)(3))</i>	\$200 <i>(401 Ky. Admin. Regs. 11:060, section 1(1)(b))</i>	\$95 <i>(Mich. Comp. Laws 324.3110(3)(f))</i>	\$60 <i>(25 Pa. Code 302.202(e))</i>	N/A