

Reciprocity for Public Water Treatment Plant Operator Certification

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Issue

Describe the process for reciprocity of public water treatment operator certification in Connecticut.

Summary

By law, the Department of Public Health (DPH) certifies public water treatment plant operators ([CGS § 25-32\(n\)](#)). In general, applicants for certification must meet specified education, experience, and examination requirements, based on the plant classification. The specific requirements are set forth in DPH regulations (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 25-32-7a et seq.).

Public Water System Operator Certification

DPH's Drinking Water Section certifies public drinking water utility personnel, including operators of water treatment plants, distribution systems, and small water systems.

For more information on the certification process, see DPH's [website](#).

The regulations allow DPH to waive the examination requirement if:

1. the applicant has passed an examination given by another state or the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) and
2. the department has entered into a reciprocity agreement with that state or ABC (DPH may only do so if it deems that state's or ABC's requirements to be at least as stringent as DPH's requirements) (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 25-32-12).

To be eligible for certification, the applicant still must meet the education and experience requirements in DPH regulations.

According to DPH, the department has not established reciprocity agreements with other states, but DPH is a member of ABC. As an ABC member, DPH has waived the examination requirement for applicants who have passed an equivalent ABC examination in another state. ABC's membership list is available on their [website](#).

According to DPH, when the department receives an application for certification by reciprocity, it requests certain information from the other state's certification program to determine whether to grant the request. The requested information includes whether the applicant:

1. took an ABC-based examination, with 100 questions, to obtain a specified level or type of certification or license,
2. passed the examination with a score of at least 70% to receive the certification or license, and
3. has a certification or license in good standing with that state (i.e., no disciplinary actions or pending investigations).

JO:bd