

State of Hawaii
Public Water System Operator Certification
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Questions

Q1. Where can I find the operator certification rules?

- A. The Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11 Chapter 25, Rules Relating to Certification of Public Water System Operators are available to download on the Safe Drinking Water Branch website.
<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/operatorcert/>

Q2. Who must be certified?

- A. Each public water system in Hawaii, except for transient, non-community public water systems, shall be under the responsible charge of an operator(s) holding a valid certification equal to or greater than the classification of the water treatment plant (WTP) or distribution system (DS). Chlorination and fluoridation facilities can be operated by either certified WTPOs or DSOs.

Q3. What are the classifications of Water Treatment Plants?

- A. Water Treatment Plant Classification
- Class 1 - Slow sand filtration; chemical addition, such as for chlorination, fluoridation, pH control, or corrosion control; granular activated carbon filtration; or packed aeration towers or air stripping towers
 - Class 2 - Membrane filtration; cartridge filtration; or desalting (including distillation, electrodialysis, and reverse osmosis)
 - Class 3 - Diatomaceous earth filtration; or package plants with diatomaceous earth filtration
 - Class 4 - Conventional treatment; direct filtration; or package treatment plants with conventional treatment or direct filtration.

Q4. What are the classifications of Distribution Systems?

- A. Distribution System Classification:
- Class 1 - Serves water systems with a population of 1,500 or less persons
 - Class 2 - Serves water systems with a population of 1,501 to 15,000 persons
 - Class 3 - Serves water systems with a population of 15,001 to 50,000 persons
 - Class 4 - Serves water systems with a population of over 50,000 persons