



Water/Wastewater Operator Certificate

Description: Certificate issued to persons who operate water or wastewater plants/systems in the State of Alabama.

Issuing Divison: Permits & Services **Branch:** General Services

When is a permit required? All public water systems and wastewater treatment plants/collection systems that provide service to the public are required to utilize the services of a certified operator of a same grade or higher based on the classification of the system. Applicants can apply for an operator certificate upon passing the operator certification test and obtaining the required experience. Operator certificates are valid for three years and must be renewed. An operator certified in another state wishing to operate in the State of Alabama must submit an application and fee to the department for obtaining a reciprocal operator certificate.

Permit is required ☐ before construction ☒ before operation ☐ before discharge

Days from complete application to issuance: 21 (minimum) 34 (maximum)

Notes on approval timeline: A Water/Wastewater Exam Application is reviewed for completeness and processed within 14 days. Computer-based examinations are regularly available at various locations in the State. Once exam application is approved, the applicant is notified to schedule the date and location. This process typically takes no more than 10 days. Experience requirements range from a minimum of six months to a maximum of 24 months based on grade classification and approved training credits. Certification is issued after passing the exam and verifying experience.

Local approval required? No.

Application procedure: A Water/Wastewater Exam Application with appropriate fee must be submitted. Once approved the applicant schedules their examination. Upon passing the examination, the operator intern must submit an Operator Experience Verification form with appropriate fee indicating that the necessary working experience for the specific operator grade classification has been obtained. Once approved by the Department an Operator Certificate is issued.

Base permit fee: (1) Certification (new) \$105.00 (2) Certification Renewal by Mail \$80.00 (3) Certification Renewal by Internet \$60.00 (4) Certification for Reciprocal Certificate \$150.00

Additive fees (explain): (1) Operator Examination fee \$270.00 (2) Late fee for renewal \$180.00

Term of permit: 3 years

Public notice required? ☐ Yes ☒ No **Length of notice:** N/A

Public hearing required? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Departmental discretion/based on comments

ADEM Contact Person: Maricia Bailey **Phone:** 334-271-7796

Additional Information: ADEM website - adem.alabama.gov

Forms Required

Form #	Form Name	Applicability/Notes
505	Water and Wastewater Operator Examination Application	Examination must be passed prior to certification.
506	Water and Wastewater Operator Experience Verification	Applicable experience required based on specific Grade required prior to certification
507	Water and Wastewater Reciprocal Application	Applies to most states, but there are exceptions
435	Operator Certification Renewal	Certificate Renewal by Mail
none	ADEM website - www.adem.alabama.gov	Online Certificate Renewal
508	Water and Wastewater Operator of Multiple Systems	Required for operators working at more than one plant