

## Certified Operator Info

### What is a Level 5 Certified Operator?

A "Level 5" certified operator is an individual who operates a noncommunity water supply system in Michigan and provides drinking water to the public. The Level 5 certification also includes some community water supplies with limited distribution systems.

### What are the operator's responsibilities?

The operator is the one who operates, monitors, and maintains the public water supply and arranges for repairs or disinfection in the case of a problem, or for bottled water if an alternate temporary supply is necessary. The operator insures that the sampling is being done on schedule and reported to the regulatory agency as required. The operator makes sure that the public water supply records are available and up to date and that all public notices are properly posted. The operator implements the contingency plan should a problem arise and is the main contact in any matter regarding the public water supply.



### What is the difference between a restricted and unrestricted certificate?

*Restricted* certificates were issued prior to December 8, 2002. An individual with a restricted certificate can only operate the system(s) they were certified for. Since December 8, 2002, operators must take and pass an examination in order to become certified. This certification would be *unrestricted* which means a person can operate any public water supply in the class for which they are certified.



For more information please contact your local health department or:

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**DEQ Training & Workshop Info**  
<http://www.michigan.gov/deqoperatortraining>  
If you have questions about your certification, contact  
MDEQ, ESSD, OTCU: 517-241-7199

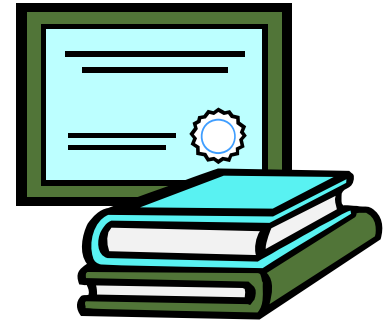
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**DEQ** Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor Steven E. Chester, Director

# CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LEVEL 5 CERTIFIED DRINKING WATER OPERATORS



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WATER BUREAU  
NONCOMMUNITY PROGRAM

5/2007

EQP5893

## What is required for a Level 5 certified operator to renew his or her certification?

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All certified operators must obtain 0.9 Continuing Education Credits (CEC) every 3 years. Training Modules for Level 5 certified operators are being provided by the local health departments. Each module is a 3 hour course with each **certified** attendee receiving 0.3 CEC's from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). CECs and certificate renewals are processed by the MDEQ, Environmental Sciences and Services Division (ESSD), Operator Training and Certification Unit (OTCU).

## Continuing Education Credit

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Upon successful completion of the training modules, participants will be awarded CECs. Attendance of the entire 3 hour module is required for the level 5 course credit.

## Other CEC opportunities:

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Training opportunities for all certification level operators currently exist through the Michigan Section American Water Works Association, the Michigan Rural Water Association, the MDEQ and others. See the MDEQ website for more information.



## Level 5 Course Offerings from Health Departments

### Course Code 1401: Coliform Bacteria & Nitrates/Nitrites in Drinking Water.

This session covers drinking water regulations of coliform bacteria, nitrates, & nitrites. Specifically describing each parameter, what must be done to provide a safe source, the causes of Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations, sampling protocol, what to do with results, health concerns, and compliance options. This is a basic course.

### Course Code 1402: Chemical Monitoring-Lead/Copper & Arsenic in Drinking Water.

This session covers drinking water regulations of the various chemical substances that could be found in our water supply. Specifically, describing the different chemicals, what must be done to provide a safe source, the causes of MCL violations, sampling protocol, what to do with results, health concerns, and compliance options. This is a basic course.

### Course Code 1403: Sanitary Surveys, Source Water Assessments, and Contingency Plans.

This session covers drinking water regulations concerning sanitary surveys, source water assessments (SWAs), and contingency plans. This session explains the purpose for and takes you through the steps of a sanitary survey, SWA, and contingency planning. This is a basic course.

### Course Code 1458: Arsenic in the Drinking Water.

This session gives detailed information about arsenic, why it might be found in the groundwater, and if it exceeds the drinking water standard, how to remedy the problem. This is an advanced course.

### Course Code 1605: Public Water Supply - Back to the Basics.

This is a good session to attend to learn everything about the basic regulations for a noncommunity drinking water supply. A general refresher course or one to take if preparing to take the Level 5 exam.

### Course Code 1606: Groundwater & Basic Well Construction.

This session discusses the hydrologic cycle, aquifers, groundwater chemistry, well hydraulics, well drilling methods, and water well components. This is a basic course.

### Course Code 1617: Type II Drinking Water Supply Basic Cross Connection Control.

This session gives the basic information regarding backsiphonage, backpressure, cross connection problems and what devices protect against cross connections.

*These sessions are currently free of charge to any certified operator who needs CECs. Funding will end September of 2008.*

## Signing up for Level 5 Courses

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To sign up for a Level 5 Training Module, contact your local health department staff for training dates & times. The following health departments are currently participating in level 5 operator training:

Allegan County	(269) 686-4502
Barry-Eaton District	(269) 945-9516
Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph	(517) 437-7395
Calhoun County	(269) 969-6476
Central Michigan	(989) 426-8985
Delta-Menomonee	(906) 786-9692
Dickinson-Iron District	(906) 774-1868
District Health Dept. #2	(989) 362-6183
District Health Dept. #4	(231) 627-8850
District Health Dept. #10	(231) 723-3595
Jackson County	(517) 841-0429
Kent County	(616) 336-3935
Livingston County	(517) 552-6860
Macomb County	(586) 469-5236
Muskegon County	(231) 724-1256
Northwest Michigan	(231) 547-7640
Oakland County	(248) 858-1342
Shiawassee County	(989) 743-2390
Tuscola County	(989) 673-8114
Washtenaw County	(734) 222-3800