

Operator Certification

Authority:

The Safe Drinking Water Act; Act 399, P.A. of 1976 as Amended requires all community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems and certain transient noncommunity systems to have a certified operator in responsible charge of the water system by December 8, 2002.

Noncommunity Water System/Operator Classification

- **S-5:** *Nontransient, noncommunity* supplies that do not treat their drinking water are classified as S-5. Most of the 1800 nontransient noncommunity supplies in Michigan will fall into this category.
- **D-5:** Noncommunity water systems that apply limited treatment are classified as D-5. The following treatment is considered limited. Other treatment may also fall into this category.
 - **disinfection,**
 - **fluoridation,**
 - **iron removal,**
 - **ion exchange treatment (except conventional water softeners),**
 - **phosphate application, or**
 - **filtration other than complete treatment.**

Systems that currently have a D-SL operator certified by the MDEQ and a satisfactory compliance history will be allowed to convert to a restricted D-5 .

- **F-5:** Noncommunity supplies with complete treatment are classified as F-5. A complete treatment system means that it uses **disinfection, coagulation, sedimentation and filtration** units that function together to produce a finished water that meets the requirements of the state drinking water standards. An F-5 classification is typically for those supplies using surface water or ground water under direct influence by surface water.

NOTE: *Noncommunity water supplies with extensive or complex treatment or distribution system, or large service population may be placed in another classification, such as 1-4 in F, D, or S classification on a case by case basis. These classifications require more training and continuing education units.*

Restricted Certificate

A *restricted certificate* (grandparenting) is allowed on a one-time basis for current operators employed by the owner provided:

- a) The operator attends a DEQ designated training session, AND
- b) the water system has a satisfactory compliance history

An operator with a restricted certificate can only operate the water system (s) they are certificate certified for.

Unrestricted Certificate

An unrestricted certificate will be issued to an operator who has a high school diploma, GED or equivalent, and successfully passes the certification exam .

An operator with an unrestricted certificate can operate any system in the class for which they are certified and systems in at lower classes and levels.

For example: S5 certified operator can operate any S5 system
D5 certified operator can operate any D5 or S5 system
F5 certified operator can operate any F5, D5 or S5 system
Holder of an unrestricted 1-4 certificate can operate any system in the class at or below the level they hold.