

**SUBCHAPTER K: PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS AND
OPERATIONS COMPANIES**
§§30.381, 30.387, 30.390, 30.392, 30.396, 30.398, 30.400, 30.402
Effective September 29, 2016

§30.381. Purpose and Applicability.

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to establish qualifications for issuing and renewing licenses and registrations to:

(1) public water system operators who perform process control duties in production or distribution of drinking water; and

(2) operations companies that operate public water systems on a contractual basis.

(b) A person who performs any of the tasks listed in subsection (a) of this section must meet the qualifications of this subchapter and be licensed or registered according to Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations), unless exempt under §30.402 of this title (relating to Exemptions); and must comply with the requirements in Chapter 290 of this title (relating to Public Drinking Water).

(c) Public water system operator licenses, certificates of competency, and registrations issued before January 1, 2002, remain in effect until they expire, or are replaced, or revoked by the commission.

(d) Renewable Class D licenses, previously issued to individuals who did not possess a high school diploma or equivalent certificate may be renewed according to §30.392 of this title (relating to Qualifications for License Renewal).

(e) An individual that is issued a license under this subchapter must perform adequate process control duties as recognized by current best management practices.

(f) An individual who has an honorary license shall not perform process control duties in production or distribution of drinking water for a public water system.

Adopted September 5, 2007

Effective September 27, 2007

§30.387. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Chief operator--An individual who has overall responsibility for the operation of a public water system.

(2) Honorary license--License converted from a perpetual license that has been discontinued by the commission. This honorary license does not award the licensee the authority to perform process control duties in production or distribution of drinking water for public water systems.

(3) Military operator-in-training--An individual who is an active duty member of the military of the United States and has successfully completed the Bioenvironmental Engineering Apprentice (BEA) or equivalent military training, as determined by the executive director, and collects microbiological samples and determines disinfection residuals for military facilities' water distribution systems. This individual may not perform any other process control duties in the water distribution or treatment facilities of a military installation.

(4) Operator-in-charge--An individual who has overall responsibility for the operation of a public water system in the absence of the chief operator.

(5) Operator-in-training--An unlicensed individual entering the field of public water system operation for the first time who has less than one year of experience and is in training to perform process control duties in production or distribution of public drinking water.

(6) Public water system operations company--A person or other nongovernmental entity that provides operations services to one or more public water systems on a contractual basis.

(7) Public water system operator--Licensed operator who performs process control duties in production or distribution of drinking water.

(8) Work experience--The actual performance of job tasks in a public water supply system that are considered essential for the treatment or distribution of drinking water.

§30.390. Qualifications for Initial License.

(a) To obtain a license, an individual must meet the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations), and the following requirements for each class of license, and pass an examination.

Figure: 30 TAC §30.390(a)

License	Education	Work Experience	Training Credits
Class D	High School Diploma (HSD) or equivalent	None	20 hours
Class C, Distribution, Groundwater, Surface water	HSD or equivalent	2 years	60 hours
Class B, Distribution and Groundwater	Bachelor's HSD or equivalent	2½ years 5 years	120 hours 120 hours
Class B, Surface water	Bachelor's HSD or equivalent	2½ years 5 years	144 hours 144 hours
Class A	Master's Bachelor's HSD or equivalent	4 years 5 years 8 years	184 hours 184 hours 184 hours

(b) An individual who applies for a Class C, B, or A license, and relies on a bachelor's or master's degree to meet the educational requirements, must have a bachelor's or master's degree with a major in chemistry, biology, engineering, microbiology, bacteriology, or other similar discipline approved by the executive director.

(c) An individual who applies for a Class C or B license must obtain at least one-half of the total work experience requirement in the specific field for the license that is requested:

(1) for Class C and B surface water licenses, the experience must be obtained through operations activities at the production or treatment facilities for surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water;

(2) for Class C and B groundwater licenses, the experience must be obtained through operations activities at the production or treatment facilities for groundwater source or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water; or

(3) for Class C and B distribution licenses, at least one-half of the required experience must be obtained as a result of operations activities at treated water storage, pumping, or distribution facilities; and

(4) once the work experience has been met from paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection, the executive director may count any remaining experience to meet up to 50% of the remaining requirement.

(d) For all classes of licenses, laboratory experience must:

(1) be obtained at a laboratory that is owned and operated by the public water system; and

(2) involve daily consultation with individuals who perform process control duties in production or distribution of drinking water for the water system.

(e) For each license, applicants may substitute either college hours or training credits to meet the experience requirement:

(1) 16 semester hours or an additional 20 hours of training credits are equal to six months of the experience;

(2) Class C applicants may only substitute up to one year of the required work experience; and

(3) Class B and Class A applicants may only substitute up to two years of the required work experience.

(f) Training credits must be in approved courses that include the following or equivalent.

Figure: 30 TAC §30.390(f)

License	Core Training Courses	Elective Training Courses
Class D	Basic Waterworks Operation	None

Class C Surface Water	Basic Waterworks Operation Surface Water Production I Surface Water Production II	None
Class C Groundwater	Basic Waterworks Operation Groundwater Production Plus one elective course	Water Distribution Water Laboratory Water Utility Safety Water Utility Calculations Chlorinator Maintenance Pump and Motor Maintenance Valve and Hydrant Maintenance
Class C Water Distribution	Basic Waterworks Operation Water Distribution Plus one elective course	Water Laboratory Water Utility Safety Water Utility Calculations Chlorinator Maintenance Pump and Motor Maintenance Valve and Hydrant Maintenance.
Class B Surface Water	Basic Waterworks Operation Surface Water Production I Surface Water Production II Water Distribution Water Utility Safety Water Laboratory Water Utility Management	None
Class B Groundwater	Basic Waterworks Operation Groundwater Production Water Laboratory Water Distribution Water Utility Safety Plus one elective course	Water Utility Management Water Utility Calculations Chlorinator Maintenance Pump and Motor Maintenance Valve and Hydrant Maintenance
Class B Water Distribution	Basic Waterworks Operation Water Distribution Water Utility Safety Pump and Motor Maintenance Valve and Hydrant	Water Utility Management Water Utility Calculations Chlorinator Maintenance Water Laboratory

	Maintenance Plus one elective course	
Class A	Basic Waterworks Operation Surface Water Production I Surface Water Production II Groundwater Production Water Distribution Water Laboratory Water Utility Management Water Utility Safety	Plus additional training to meet the 184 hour requirement

(g) An individual who previously held a Class D license shall not apply for a new Class D license if the individual:

(1) currently operates facilities at groundwater treatment systems of 250 connections or more;

(2) currently operates facilities at groundwater treatment systems serving a population of 750 or more;

(3) currently operates facilities at surface water treatment systems;

(4) currently operates facilities at groundwater systems under the influence of surface water;

(5) performs supervisor, crew chief, or foremen duties for distribution systems that have over 250 connections; or

(6) operates multiple groundwater systems and the cumulative number of connections exceeds 250.

Adopted September 7, 2016

Effective September 29, 2016

§30.392. Qualifications for License Renewal.

(a) To renew a license, an individual must have:

(1) met the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations) and completed a total amount of approved continuing education equal to that of ten hours per year the license is valid; or

(2) met the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter and passed the examination for the license.

(b) The basic water training course shall not be used to renew a Class B or A license.

(c) Class D licenses are not renewable for licensed operators:

(1) at groundwater treatment systems of 250 connections or more;

(2) at groundwater treatment systems serving a population of 750 or more;

(3) at surface water treatment systems;

(4) at groundwater systems under the influence of surface water;

(5) who are supervisors, crew chiefs, or foremen of distribution systems that have over 250 connections; or

(6) who operate multiple groundwater systems and the cumulative number of connections exceeds 250.

(d) To renew an active converted perpetual license, an individual must have met the requirements of this section, with the exception of the renewal fee.

Adopted September 5, 2007

Effective September 27, 2007

§30.396. Qualifications for Initial Registration.

To obtain a registration, a person must meet the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations).

Adopted November 20, 2001

Effective December 17, 2001

§30.398. Qualifications for Registration Renewal.

To renew a registration a person must meet the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations).

Adopted November 20, 2001

Effective December 17, 2001

§30.400. Additional Requirements for Public Water System Operations Companies.

(a) When a public water system operating company submits an application to obtain or renew a registration, it must submit a report to the executive director. The report shall include:

(1) the public water system operating company name, registration number, location, and mailing address;

(2) the public water system identification number and name for each system operated;

(3) the dates of operation during the reporting period;

(4) the names and license numbers of all licensed operators employed by the operations company;

(5) the names of the licensed chief operators and licensed supervisors;
and

(6) any additional information required by the executive director.

(b) A person that operates a public water system under contract must apply for a new registration and submit an amended report if a company is bought or sold and the name of the company changes.

(c) Public water system operating companies shall submit a registration fee based on the number of public water systems served as indicated in the following table.

Figure: 30 TAC §30.400(c)

Number of Public Water Systems Served	Fee
0 to 4	\$122
5 to 9	\$240

10 to 19	\$399
20 or more	\$636

Adopted September 5, 2007

Effective September 27, 2007

§30.402. Exemptions.

(a) An individual who performs process control duties in production or distribution of drinking water for a transient non-community water system as defined in §290.38(77) of this title (relating to Definitions), is exempt from the licensing requirements of this subchapter, if the source water for the water system is purchased treated water or groundwater that is not under the direct influence of surface water.

(b) An operator-in-training under the direct supervision of a licensed public water system operator is exempt from the licensing requirements of this subchapter.

(c) A military operator-in-training under the direct supervision of a licensed public water system operator is exempt from the licensing requirements of this subchapter for the purpose of collecting microbiological samples or determining disinfection residuals at military facilities' water distribution systems. The military operator-in-training is not exempt from the licensing requirements of this subchapter for the purpose of performing any other process control duties in the distribution or treatment facilities of a public water system.

(d) An individual who holds a groundwater or surface water license may perform duties relating to the operation and maintenance of drinking water production, purchased water, and water distribution systems and is not required to hold a distribution license.

Adopted December 5, 2012

Effective December 27, 2012