

Industrial Wastewater Treatment Classifications and Operator Certification

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EGLE, Water Resources Division

Licensing and Technology Support Unit

Op Cert Staff – Roles & Duties

**Alyssa Sarver,
EQS**

- Exam development, reciprocity, program modernization

**Sarah Marshall, Sr.
EQA**

- Renewals for wastewater and stormwater, CECs for municipal wastewater, SHEs, references

Marian Maier, EQA

- Stormwater exams, A-1a and A-1h applications, webpage updates

Everyone

- Wastewater applications, exam reviews, payment assistance, general questions

What Programs Do We Cover?

Wastewater

Municipal (A-D, L2, L1, SC), Collection systems

Industrial (28 classifications)

Storm Water

Industrial (ISW)

Construction (CSW)

SESC Plan Review and Design



EG&E



How Does the Classification and Certification Process Work?

Facility applies for a wastewater discharge permit

WRD staff evaluate this information



District Staff classify the facility based on treatment technology being used

Classification letter is then sent to the facility



Operators apply for exams based off the facility classification(s)

Statute and Admin Rules

Part 31, Section 3110, Public Act 451 of 1994

- Requires certified operators at facilities that discharge liquid wastes to waters of the State

Part 10. Treatment Plant Operators Administrative Rules

- Outline the specific facility classifications and certification requirements

Industrial Wastewater Board of Examiners

Part 10. Treatment Plant Operators Administrative Rules

- Must recommend issuance/denial of certs to Department following exam
 - Results are mailed after Board meeting
 - Results are not released early to operators/employers/staff

Board Meetings, Open Meetings Act

- Pre- and post-exam meetings
 - January, March, July, and September of each year

Facility Classifications and Requirements

Physical (A), Chemical (B), Biological (C) treatment

Six months of experience required for all classifications

Three subclassifications for education and experience requirements

- **Level 1:** No education requirement
- **Level 2:** High school diploma/GED/equivalent + HS chemistry **OR** 5 years operating experience
- **Level 3:** Two years of college in engineering, chemistry, biological sciences **OR** HS grad with at least four courses in post-HS level chemistry or biological sciences

Municipal Crossover Experience

- Crossover experience evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- Not automatically approved to take industrial exams if you have a municipal certification



Current Facility Classifications - Physical

A-1a – Special Classification
A-1b – Plain Clarification
A-1d – Impoundment
A-1f – Land Surface Disposal
A-1g – Sub-Surface Disposal
A-1h – Non-Contact Cooling Water
A-1i – Industrial Storm Water
A-1j – Construction Storm Water
A-1k – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
• No longer in use
A-2b – Filtration of Wastewater
A-2c – Air Flotation
A-2d – Air Stripping
A-2e – Centrifuging
A-2g – Deep Well Injection

Current Facility Classifications - Chemical

B-1b – Neutralization

B-2a – Chemical Clarification

B-2b – Ion Exchange

B-2c – Oil-Water Separation

B-2d – Ultraviolet Oxidation

B-3b – Carbon Adsorption

B-3c – Reduction of Hexavalent Chromium

B-3d – Oxidation of Cyanide

Current Facility Classifications - Biological

C-1b – Aerated Lagoons

C-1c – Stabilization Ponds

C-2a – Disinfection

C-2b – Trickling Filters

C-2c – Biological Sand Filters

C-2d – Rotating Biological Contactors

C-2e – Package Plant

• No longer in use (part of C-3a classification)

C-2f – Constructed Wetlands

C-3a – Activated Sludge

C-3b – Sequencing Batch Reactor

Wastewater and stormwater operator certification

Michigan.gov/WWCertification

EGLE

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Municipal and industrial wastewater systems are vital for public health and environmental protection, with certified operators ensuring proper treatment and compliance. Municipal wastewater, from residential and commercial sources, requires effective treatment before discharge, while industrial wastewater often contains more complex contaminants needing specialized processes, including stormwater coverage. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) certifies operators to ensure they have the necessary expertise to manage these systems, prevent pollution, and meet regulatory standards, contributing to cleaner water and healthier communities.

The Water Resources Division (WRD), through its Licensing and Technology Support Unit (LATS), administers certification programs for municipal and industrial wastewater, industrial stormwater, construction stormwater, and soil erosion and sedimentation control plan review and design.

The unit is also responsible for exam scheduling and reviews, certification renewals, reciprocity, operator outreach and correspondence, facilitating application payment, Board coordination, and oversight of activities related to the Part 41, Sewerage Systems, statute and Part 41 Administrative Rules; Part 31, Water Resources Protection, statute and Part 10 Administrative Rules; and Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control statute, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.



**Municipal wastewater
operator certification**



**Industrial wastewater
operator certification**



**Industrial
stormwater operator
certification**



**Construction
stormwater operator
certification**



**SESC plan review and
design operator
certification**



Course information



**FAQ: Wastewater
operator certification**

Certified operator lists



Industrial wastewater operators



Municipal wastewater operators



Construction stormwater operators



Industrial stormwater operators



SESC & plan review and design operators

IWW operator certification

General information & rules

Exams

A-1a & A-1h Application

Renewals

Current certified operators

Other certifications

FAQ

Contacts



Last updated April 2, 2026

The list of current certified operators is updated following board approval of exam results. .

Show entries

Search:

Last Name	First Name	Class	Expires July 1	Operator # (W-XXXX)	Employer
Abel	Jeffrey W.	A-1g	2027	8263	Mecosta County Parks
Abend	Randy E.	C-1c	2029	8526	Hazekamp Meats
Abernathy	Jason	A-1g	2027	8190	N/A
Abfalter	David M.	A-1a	2029	7766	E.T. Mackenzie Company
Ackerberg	Jeffrey H.	A-1h	2028	7686	Ravenna Ductile Iron
Adamisin	Rachel A.	A-1h	2026	7319	Condat Corporation
Adams	Ben J.	A-1d, C-1b	2028	8472	Arbor Hills Landfill
Adams	Race E.	A-1b, B-1b, B-2a, B-2c	2030	8577	Michigan Automotive Compressor WWTP
Agens	Justin M.	A-1b, B-2a, C-2a	2028	7681	Paw Paw Lake Area WWTP
Ahlschwede	Carla M.	A-1d, A-1f, A-1g, C-1b, C-1c, C-2c	2028	8191	MDOT

Showing 1 to 10 of 1787 entries

Previous **1** 2 3 4 5 ... 179 Next

Exam frequency



Replacement certificates



Exam reviews



Certification reciprocity



Training materials for both municipal and industrial wastewater



All of the files below are PowerPoint (PPT) presentations. **For the best experience, view them in Presentation Mode** so the animations display correctly.

- [Activated Sludge Process](#)
- [Anaerobic sludge digestion process](#)
- [The Basics of Phosphorus Removal](#)
- [Calculation of Range Of Dilutions for Acceptable BOD Results](#)
- [Chemical Clarification - Coagulation Methods](#)
- [Chemical Clarification - Precipitation Methods](#)
- [Clarifier Calculations](#)
- [Clarifiers](#)
- [Colorimetry Basics](#)
- [Dissolved Oxygen and Biochemical Oxygen Demand Analyses](#)
- [Ion Selective Electrodes](#)
- [Jar Testing of Chemical Dosages](#)
- [Concentration of Solutions and the Concentration/Volume Relationship](#)
- [Common Laboratory Glassware and Volumetric Glassware](#)
- [Neutralization](#)
- [Nitrification and Denitrification](#)
- [Oil and Grease](#)
- [Phosphorus Removal for Lagoon Operators](#)
- [Pounds Formula](#)
- [Rotating Biological Contactor \(RBC\) Process](#)
- [Solids Analysis](#)
- [Wastewater Stabilization Lagoon Process](#)

Contact us

For questions on topics not listed below, please reach out to EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov with a clear description of your question.



Municipal and industrial wastewater exam applications

EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov



Reciprocity

Alyssa Sarver
SarverA@Michigan.gov
517-881-1371



Certificate copies

EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov



Credit card and check payments

EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov



Renewals - all programs

Sarah Marshall
MarshallS15@Michigan.gov
ov
517-388-6679



Facility classification/permit/compliance

- [NPDES \(Surface Water\) Discharge Staff Map](#)
- [Groundwater Discharge Staff Map](#)
- [SESC & Construction Stormwater Staff Map](#)
- [Industrial Stormwater Staff Map](#)



A-1a and A-1h applications

Marian Maier
MaierM3@Michigan.gov
517-582-4848



Stormwater Certifications – all programs

Marian Maier
MaierM3@Michigan.gov
517-582-4848



CEC applications and renewals

Sarah Marshall
MarshallS15@Michigan.gov
ov
517-388-6679



Industrial wastewater operator certification

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IWW operator certification

General information & rules

Exams

A-1a & A-1h Application

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Current certified operators

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Required by the Part 10 Treatment Plant Operator administrative rules promulgated pursuant to Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, Mich Admin Code, R 323.1251 et seq., all industrial/commercial operator certification applicants that want to become certified at a classified facility must pass a written exam for certification except those facilities that discharge to sanitary sewer, or are a concentrated animal feeding operation.

IWW operator certification

General information & rules

Exams

A-1a & A-1h Application

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Applicable laws and rules

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) certifies Industrial Wastewater Operators and provides certification under [Part 31 of the Public Act 45\], as amended](#), and [Part 10 Treatment Plant Operator Administrative Rules](#).

General information

Industrial/commercial wastewater certification examinations are offered twice a year in August and February.

Certification is offered in a variety of classifications, each relating to a unit process. Follow this link to a [List of the Current Classifications and Definitions](#).

A-Physical

- A-1A (Special Classification)
- A-1B (Plain Clarification)
- A-1D (Impoundment)
- A-1F (Land Surface Disposal)
- A-1G (Sub Surface Disposal)
- A-1H (Non-Contact Cooling Water)
- A-2B (Filtration of Wastewater)
- A-2C (Air Flotation)
- A-2D (Air Stripping)
- A-2E (Centrifuging)
- A-2G (Deep Well Injection)

B-Chemical

- B-1B (Neutralization)
- B-2A (Chemical Clarification)
- B-2B (Ion Exchange)
- B-2C (Oil - Water Separation)
- B-2d (Ultraviolet Oxidation)
- B-3B (Carbon Absorption)
- B-3C (Reduction of Hexavalent Chromium)
- B-3D (Oxidation of Cyanide)

C-Biological

- C-1B (Aerated Lagoons)
- C-1C (Stabilization Ponds)
- C-2a (Disinfection)
- C-2B (Trickling Filters)
- C-2C (Biological Sand Filters_
- C-2d (Rotating Biological Contractors)
- C-2F (Constructed Wetlands)
- C-3A (Activated Sludge)
- C-3B (Sequencing Batch Reactor)

Replacement certification requests must be submitted to the EGLE WRD Operator Certification Unit and should include the operator's full name and all requested certification numbers

Certification reciprocity

- Michigan honors certification reciprocity with any state or nation that allows reciprocity for Michigan operators.
- Please contact EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov to request a certification reciprocity application and staff will follow up with you.

IWW operator certification

General information & rules

Exams

A-1a & A-1h Application

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Getting started

Industrial/commercial wastewater classifications are associated with the waste treatment occurring at the facility as Physical (A), Chemical (B), and/or Biological (C). Sub-categories for classifications are identified as Level 1, 2, or 3 and those levels correspond with the amount of education required for that classification. Education and experience requirements for each of the classifications are further described in the [Industrial/Commercial Certification Practices](#) document.

Industrial/commercial wastewater certification examinations are offered twice a year in August and February in four locations throughout the state.

Current Submission Timeline

- Application submission is: **May 4, 2026**
- Application deadline: **July 13, 2026**

Application submittal

Application submittals will be sent to EGLE WRD Operator Certification Unit. All applicants must attach the **signed application**, for Level 3 only submit **all education transcripts**, and **certificates** to be considered complete.

Always download the exam application from this page. Do not use an old application.

ADA Accommodations are available. Please explain thoroughly in application.

Exam notification letters are mailed 2-3 weeks before the exam. Please read your acceptance letter to verify the exam location and the exam time.

Please submit your application **as soon as possible within the application timeline**. The earlier you submit your application, the more likely it is that staff can provide adequate feedback if you are missing information.

An incomplete application may be denied at any point during the application cycle; however, it is much more likely for staff to review and retrieve missing information to complete your application the earlier you apply.

- [Formula Sheet](#)
- Operators may find the [examination guide](#) helpful in preparing for the certification exams.

[Download the Application and Instructions](#)

Upcoming exam dates

Aug 13 **Industrial wastewater (IWW) operator certification exam**

Application/Exam Processes



A-1a and A-1h Classifications

- Online application, can be filled out and submitted year-round



All Other Classifications

- In-person exams are offered in February and August
- Stormwater exams are online year-round



Temporary Certification (Reciprocity)

- Assess equivalent certifications from other states
- Given a temporary license, and then must pass MI exam(s)

Database Update

Individual operator profiles

Collection of education, work experience, trainings

Apps and renewals submitted through portal

View tracking/status for applications

CEC tracking

Reference checks & supervisor verification

Payments will be incorporated into the system

Everything in one location

- And even more to come!

Exam Time – What to Expect

evaexam

SCANTRON

EGLE

Water Resources Division

Operator Certification Unit

L2 Test 3

Mark as shown:

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

Please use a no. 2 pencil to fill in the form.

Correction:

☐ ☒ ☒ ☐ ☐

Please follow the examples shown on the left.

Please complete:

First name:

Last name:

In order for your exam to be processed correctly please make sure you enter your student ID precisely into both of the fields provided for it. All pages are entirely individualized and cannot be replaced by pages of other exam sheets.

*Mark answers with an X.

*Fill-in wrong answer and mark new answer with an X.

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Stormwater Exams

Construction stormwater operator certification

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CWSO certification

General information & rules

Exams

Self training

Renewals

Current certified operators

SESC & CSW program

Other certifications

FAQ

Contacts

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) certifies **Construction Stormwater Operators** and provides certification for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan Review and Design under Part 31 and [Part 91 of Public Act 451, as amended](#).

The permittee must follow the requirements of Permit by Rule. Permit-by Rule requires compliance with the SESC permit issued under Part 91 and also requires SESC measures to be inspected weekly and within 24 hours of a significant rain event by a certified stormwater operator. The certification materials and testing are available.

Certification as a CSWO allows you to

- Inspect sites to determine compliance with a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) Plan
- Document Inspection
- Identify SESC measures that are failing or require maintenance
- Identify areas where additional SESC measures may be necessary
- Report to landowner (or Comprehensive Certified individuals for employees or contractors for Part 91 Enforcing Agencies or Authorized Public Agencies) inspection findings, including any corrective or additional action recommended.
- Certified CSWOs may be the same person responsible for installing and maintaining the SESC measures; however, this is not a required duty under the certification

- Offered online and available year-round
- All training and exam info is online (no in-person)
- With the new website format each program has its own page.

Water Resources Division - Storm Water Exam Registration

Registration Information

If you are registering multiple people, each person needs a submission. You cannot sign up multiple people using the same form.

If you need the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan to be an existing Construction Storm Water Permit.

This registration form is for:

- Industrial Storm Water
- Construction Storm Water
- Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control

Exam Information

- All exams are administered via an online platform (EvaExam).
- You will receive an email with your specific exam link on the date you select.
- You have 24 hours to open the exam. Once you access the link, you have two (2) hours to complete the exam.

Water Resources Division - Construction Storm Water Exam Registration Confirmation	
From	EGLE-Automated
To	Maier, Marian (EGLE)
Sent	Wednesday, October 8, 2025 11:59 AM

This message has been automatically generated via Microsoft Power Automate. Please do not reply to this email as this mailbox is not monitored.

This email is confirmation that you are registered for a Construction Storm Water Operator exam on **November 19, 2025** (registration closes Nov 12). Please contact EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov if you have any questions.

Payment Information

Please pay for your exam now and your fee will be put towards your exam date. **The Payment Verification Code is LATS26!**

- The fee for this exam is \$95.00
- Credit Card Payment Site: <https://www.thepayplace.com/mi/deq/otcu>
- The Payment Verification Code is **LATS26!**

Paying with a Check?

Contact EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov and ask for the payment form.

State of Michigan Employee?

Your exam fee(s) will be charged via interagency billing. Contact EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov if you do not want to pay via interagency billing.

Training Information

You are expected to self-study and review the materials before your exam date. All training materials are accessible online.

- CSWO and SESC PRD Training Page: [CSW - Self training](#) & [SESC - Self training](#)

Exam Information

- All exams are administered via an online platform (EvaExam).
- You will receive an email with your specific exam link **on the date you select.**
- You have **24 hours to open the exam.** Once you access the link, you have **two (2) hours to complete the exam.**
- The exam link will be sent via Noreply-EGLE-WRD-OpCert@michigan.gov. If you do not see it in your inbox, check your junk or spam folder.

Stormwater Exams

Registering for Exams

- A separate registration is required for each person and for each exam type
- Anyone needing the SESC PRD cert who is not already certified in CSWO must complete two separate exam registrations
- Registration closing dates are listed next to the exam offering dates and website.
- The email address you submit will be where we send the exam link and any future communications. You will receive a confirmation email once submitted

Stormwater Exams

Subject	Construction Stormwater Online Exam
From	EGLE WRD Op Cert
To	Maier, Marian (EGLE)
Sent	Thursday, July 10, 2025 10:33 AM

This message has been automatically generated via ~~EvaExam~~. Do not respond to this message. Please email EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov if you have any questions.

Dear Examinee:

This email provides you access to the **Construction Stormwater Certification** online exam.

Before you begin:

- Ensure a stable internet connection.
- Be aware that firewall or network restrictions may block access to the exam; if possible, use a personal or unrestricted network connection.
- You have **24 hours to open the exam**. Once you access the link, you have **two (2) hours to complete the exam**. It closes at 7:30am on Thursday.

To start the exam, please open the following link:

{Link}

Please email EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Licensing and Technology Support Unit
EGLE Water Resources Division

Exam Administration

- You will receive an email with an exam link **on the date you select** (around 7:30am)
- Exam is available for 24 hours (closes at 7:30am following day)
- Two-hour time limit once you begin

Stormwater Exams

Fees and Payment

Fees and Payment

Certification application fees

- Level 1 and 2 Exams - \$35.00 per exam
- Level 3 Exams - \$40.00 per exam

Certification application fees

- A-1a - \$30.00 per exam
- A-1h - \$30.00 per exam

- Today, all fees are on our website/apps/forms
- If you need to pay for something today, email the app/form to us and we respond with payment info
- Soon, all payment and apps will be handled in database

Industrial Renewal Info

Certificates are valid for 5 years

- All Industrial WW Certs + Const SW, Industrial SW, and SESC PRD
- If not renewed by July 1, cert is expired
- Operator has until August 31 to renew the certification; if not, then must retest
- If you have multiple certs, your renewal dates may be different based on exam dates

No CECs required to renew

- Fill out/submit the renewal form, and pay the \$95 renewal fee



Questions?! Thank you!

Contact Us!

- **Alyssa Sarver, SarverA@Michigan.gov**
- **Sarah Marshall, MarshallS15@Michigan.gov**
- **Marian Maier, MaierM3@Michigan.gov**
- **Main Inbox, EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov**