

**TITLE 252. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHAPTER 710. WATERWORKS AND WASTEWATER WORKS OPERATOR
CERTIFICATION.**

RULEMAKING ACTION:

Notice of proposed PERMANENT rulemaking

PROPOSED RULES:

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

252:710-1-1 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-2 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-3 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-4 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-5 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-6 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-7 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-8 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-9 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-12 [AMENDED]

Subchapter 3. Certification

252:710-3-31. [AMENDED]

252:710-3-32. [AMENDED]

252:710-3-34. [AMENDED]

252:710-3-35. [AMENDED]

252:710-3-36. [AMENDED]

252:710-3-37. [AMENDED]

252:710-3-38. [NEW]

Subchapter 5. Duties and Responsibilities

252:710-5-53. [AMENDED]

252:710-5-54. Temporary operator

252:710-5-55. [AMENDED]

252:710-5-56. [AMENDED]

Subchapter 7. Shared Operators for Small Systems

252:710-7-2. [AMENDED]

Appendix B Certificate Requirements (252:710-3-35) [REVOKED]

Appendix B Certificate Requirements (252:710-3-35) [NEW]

Appendix C Number Of Professional Development Hours (PDHs) Needed Per Certificate Level For Operators And Laboratory Operators [NEW]

SUMMARY:

The gist of this rulemaking is to enhance the professional development of operators in Oklahoma by increasing training requirements for certification renewal. This rulemaking will allow DEQ to approve a variety of training opportunities that minimize the financial impact on operators and employers and help rural operators to achieve the required training hours. Furthermore, this rulemaking will allow environmental professionals, such as DEQ environmental specialists, to obtain a special non-operational certification in order to demonstrate a fundamental understanding of operator knowledge. This rulemaking will also modify language to change the time of approval and review for training courses from 30 to 42 days. Furthermore, this rulemaking will incorporate the language of Senate Bill No. 670 that provides for certification reciprocity for

military personnel being transferred to Oklahoma. Lastly, this rulemaking will promote consistency with relevant statutory language and clarify existing language by adding definitions and modifying unclear rule text.

The Department is also proposing to add Appendix C that clarifies the number of Professional Development Hours need for each certificate level.

AUTHORITY:

Environmental Quality Board, 27A O.S. § 2-2-101; Water Quality Management Advisory Council, 27A O.S. § 2-2-201; and 27A O.S. §§ 2-6-103, 2-6-203, 2-6-402 and 2-6-501

COMMENT PERIOD:

Written comments may be submitted to the contact person from December 2, 2019 through January 2, 2020. Oral comments may be made at the January 7, 2020 Water Quality Management Advisory Council hearing and at the February 21, 2020 Environmental Quality Board hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Before the Water Quality Management Advisory Council on January 7, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room on the first floor of the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102.

Before the Environmental Quality Board on February 21, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room on the first floor of the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102.

REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS:

The Department requests that business entities or any other members of the public affected by these rules provide the Department, within the comment period, in dollar amounts if possible, the increase in the level of direct costs such as fees, and the indirect costs such as reporting, recordkeeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss, or other costs expected to be incurred by a particular entity due to compliance with the proposed rules.

COPIES OF PROPOSED RULES:

Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained from the contact person, reviewed at the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during normal business hours (8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday) or reviewed online at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/index.htm>.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

Copies of the rule impact statement may be obtained from the contact person or may be reviewed online at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/index.htm>.

CONTACT PERSON:

The contact person is Mark Hildebrand. Mark may be contacted at: Mark.Hildebrand@deq.ok.gov (e-mail), (405) 702-8100 (phone) or (405) 702-8101 (fax). The DEQ is located at 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. The DEQ's mailing address is P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Persons with disabilities who desire to attend the rulemaking hearing and need an accommodation should notify the contact person three (3) days in advance of the hearing. For hearing impaired, the TDD relay number is 1-800-522-8506 or 1-800-722-0353, for TDD machine use only.