

**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]

252:710-1-4 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-5 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-6 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-7 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-7.1 [NEW]

252:710-1-8 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-11 [AMENDED]

252:710-1-12 [AMENDED]

Subchapter 3: Certification

252:710-3-31 [AMENDED]

252:710-3-32 [AMENDED]

252:710-3-33 [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 [AMENDED]

Subchapter 5: Duties and Responsibilities

252:710-5-51 [AMENDED]

252:710-5-52 [AMENDED]

252:710-5-53 [AMENDED]

252:710-5-55 [AMENDED]

252:710-5-56 [AMENDED]

252:710-5-57 [AMENDED]

252:710-5-58 [AMENDED]

252:710-5-59 [AMENDED]

Subchapter 7: Shared Operators for Small Systems

252:710-7-2 [AMENDED]

Appendix A. Classification of Community and Non-Transient, Non-Community Water Systems, Wastewater Systems, and Laboratories [REVOKED]

Appendix A. Classification of Community and Non-Transient, Non-Community Water Systems, Wastewater Systems, and Laboratories [NEW]

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

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

Appendix C. Number of Professional Development Hours (PDHs) Needed Per Certificate Level for Operators and Laboratory Operators [REVOKED]

Appendix C. Number of Professional Development Hours (PDHs) Needed Per Certification Level for Operators and Laboratory Operators [NEW]

SUMMARY:

The gist of this rule and the underlying reason for the rulemaking is to (1) correct grammatical errors; (2) clarify that operator experience means licensed experience; (3) allow approval of virtual classes that are less than 4 hours; (4) require attendance records to be submitted in a DEQ-approved format; (5) cite military exception statute for renewals; (6) rename registered helper to non-certified helper; (7) change CPI from every five years to annually; (8) allow DEQ to determine if a non-community and minor systems need an operator; (9) clarify approved equivalents; and, (10) fix footnotes in Appendices A & B.

AUTHORITY:

Environmental Quality Board; 27A O.S. §§ 2-2-101, 2-6-103, and 2-6-203.

Water Quality Management Advisory Council; 27A O.S. § 2-2-201.

COMMENT PERIOD:

Written comments may be submitted to the contact person from December 2, 2024, through January 7, 2025. Oral comments may be made at the Water Quality Management Advisory Council meeting on January 7, 2025, and at the Environmental Quality Board meeting on January 21, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Before the Water Quality Management Advisory Council on January 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Environmental Quality offices, First Floor, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. If the Council recommends adoption, the proposed rules will be considered by the Environmental Quality Board at its meeting scheduled on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the DEQ Headquarters, First Floor, 707 N. Robinson Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS ENTITIES:

DEQ requests that business entities or any other members of the public affected by these rules provide to DEQ (during the comment period) the increase (in dollar amounts if possible) in the level of direct costs (e.g., fees) and indirect costs (e.g., reporting, record keeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss), or other costs expected to be incurred 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 <https://www.deq.ok.gov/council-meeting-single/?meetingid=MTc2Njg=>.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

Copies of the rule impact statement may be obtained from the contact person or may be reviewed online at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/council-meeting-single/?meetingid=MTc2Njg=>.

CONTACT PERSON:

Brian Clagg, Water Quality Division, 707 N. Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677, email brian.clagg@deq.ok.gov, phone (405) 702-8100, or fax (405) 702-8101.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

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.