

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

Before the Water Quality Management Advisory Council on January 7, 2025  
Before the Environmental Quality Board on January 21, 2025

**RULE IMPACT STATEMENT**

**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]

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**DESCRIPTION:**

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 or minor systems need an operator; (9) clarify approved equivalents; and, (10) fix footnotes in Appendices A & B.

**CLASSES OF PERSONS AFFECTED:**

All persons holding or seeking a certification under these rules, as well as the waterworks and wastewater works facilities in Oklahoma required to employ Waterworks, Wastewater Works, Waterworks Laboratory, Wastewater Works Laboratory, Distribution System, and Collection System certified operators.

**CLASSES OF PERSONS WHO WILL BEAR COSTS:** There is no anticipated increase in costs as a result of these rule changes other than through the CPI.

**INFORMATION ON COST IMPACTS FROM PRIVATE/PUBLIC ENTITIES:** DEQ has not received any information from other public or private entities concerning the cost impacts of the proposed regulations.

**CLASSES OF PERSONS BENEFITTED:** Citizens of and visitors to Oklahoma will benefit from operators that are properly certified. Operators and citizens will benefit from clearer requirements for operators. Operators also benefit from increased standards for documentation of virtual training classes and allowing for more virtual classes. Operators and citizens also will see a benefit in establishing that DEQ determines if non-community and minor systems need an operator to safeguard human health and to protect the environment.

**PROBABLE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON AFFECTED CLASSES OF PERSONS:** There is no anticipated increase in costs as a result of these rule changes other than through the CPI

**PROBABLE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:** It is unlikely that the proposed rulemaking will have an economic impact on political subdivisions (e.g., municipalities).

**POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS:** DEQ has not identified any foreseeable adverse effect on small businesses.

**LISTING OF ALL FEE CHANGES, INCLUDING A SEPARATE JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH FEE CHANGE:** There are no proposed fee changes associated with this rulemaking.

**PROBABLE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO DEQ TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE:** There are no anticipated additional costs to DEQ to implement and enforce the proposed rule.

**PROBABLE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO OTHER AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE:** There are no anticipated impacts to other agencies.

**SOURCE OF REVENUE TO BE USED TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE RULE:** There is no new funding necessary to implement and enforce this rule.

**PROJECTED NET LOSS OR GAIN IN REVENUES FOR DEQ AND/OR OTHER AGENCIES, IF IT CAN BE PROJECTED:** DEQ will not incur additional costs beyond the updating of this chapter.

**COOPERATION OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT OR ENFORCE RULE:** DEQ does not anticipate the need for additional cooperation with political subdivisions associated with this rulemaking.

**EXPLANATION OF THE MEASURES THE DEQ TOOK TO MINIMIZE COMPLIANCE COSTS:** No measures were identified to minimize compliance costs associated with this rulemaking as minimal or no increased costs are anticipated.

**DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THERE ARE LESS COSTLY OR NONREGULATORY OR LESS INTRUSIVE METHODS OF ACHIEVING THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE:** DEQ has determined there are no less costly or non-regulatory methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulations.

**DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECT ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT:** Promulgating this rule will further protect the public health, safety, and environment of Oklahoma by ensuring the requirements for operators are clearer. Operators will also benefit from an increased availability in virtual classes and clearer requirements for documentation of attendance records for virtual classes. Operators and citizens will also benefit from establishing that DEQ determines if non-community and minor systems need an operator to safeguard human health and to protect the environment.

**IF THE PROPOSED RULE IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE SIGNIFICANT RISKS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT, EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE RISK AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE PROPOSED RULE WILL REDUCE THE RISK:** This rulemaking ensures virtual classes are more readily available allowing for operators to have greater access to training and ensures proper documentation of attendance for virtual classes. It further clarifies requirements for operator certification and establishes that DEQ determines if non-community and minor systems need operators to safeguard human health and protect the environment.

**DETERMINATION OF ANY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT IF THE PROPOSED RULE IS NOT IMPLEMENTED:**

There has been no determination of any detrimental effect on public health, safety and environment.

**PROBABLE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE IMPACT ON BUSINESS ENTITIES (INCLUDE QUANTIFIABLE DATA WHERE POSSIBLE):** DEQ has not received any quantifiable or qualitative data of the impacts of the proposed updates.

**THIS RULE IMPACT STATEMENT WAS PREPARED ON:** October 25, 2024

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