

COVID-19 Pandemic  
Temporary Water and Wastewater Operator  
Reciprocity Policy



Water Quality Division

Effective April 1, 2020

## Water and Wastewater Operator Reciprocity Background

Every public water supply system and wastewater treatment facility in the State of Oklahoma must be under the supervision of an Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) certified operator Oklahoma Administrative Code (“OAC”) 252:710 and Oklahoma Statute §59-1107 (59 O.S. § 1107). Furthermore, 59 O.S. § 1107 authorizes DEQ to provide reciprocal certification for operators from other states, territories and countries. The requirements for certification reciprocity from outside Oklahoma must not conflict with the provisions of State statutes or regulations and must be no less stringent.

Currently, Oklahoma awards reciprocity to operators from other states on a case-by-case basis. The reciprocity approval process includes a comparison of the original certifying state’s program to Oklahoma requirements, review of the operator’s training and work experience, and a check to ensure the operator’s certificate is active and in good standing by directly confirming with the issuing state. While this process helps to ensure that operators with certification from other states will be qualified to work in Oklahoma, it can be time consuming and is not designed to work during rapidly changing situations such as the one created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## COVID-19 Reciprocity Policy

**This policy applies only to water and wastewater utilities that lose DEQ certified operators due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Reciprocity approval for non-COVID-19 circumstances will follow the existing reciprocity application process. DEQ urges all Oklahoma Utilities to develop and implement a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to ensure continuous oversight by a certified operator to protect public health and the environment and avoid disruptions in service.

Water and wastewater utilities should make every possible effort to maintain operations under the supervision of a DEQ certified operator. If DEQ certified operators are not available to operate their utilities, the following process may be used to obtain the services of an operator certified in a jurisdiction approved under this policy.

### **There is no fee for the application or issuance of temporary reciprocity.**

1. Review the information in Attachments A and B to determine the classification of operator in one of the above listed states that would coincide with the classification of your utility.
2. Review the temporary reciprocity application and complete the information requested on the form.
3. Scan and email the completed and signed form with supporting documentation to [andy.callaway@deq.ok.gov](mailto:andy.callaway@deq.ok.gov) or [chris.wisniewski@deq.ok.gov](mailto:chris.wisniewski@deq.ok.gov) at DEQ (see below).
4. Provided that all information on the temporary reciprocity form is correctly completed, reciprocity will be automatically approved, and a confirmation email will be sent to the utility. It is the responsibility of the utility to ensure that the operator seeking reciprocity is certified at the appropriate level and is in good standing in the issuing state.
5. **All temporary reciprocity will expire on December 31, 2020.** After December 31, the regular reciprocity case-by-case review procedure will apply.
6. Should the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on utility operators extend past the end of 2020, DEQ will revisit and revise this policy accordingly.

DEQ may extend this policy to include other jurisdictions beyond those specifically mentioned in this agreement if requested. Such requests should be made to DEQ and will be considered on a case by case basis.

**If you have questions, please email:**

[Andy.callaway@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Andy.callaway@deq.ok.gov)

Or

[Chris.wisniewski@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Chris.wisniewski@deq.ok.gov)



# STATE OF OKLAHOMA COVID-19 RESPONSE REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY WATER & WASTEWATER OPERATOR RECIPROCITY

This form is applicable ONLY for operators currently certified in the states of Kansas, Colorado, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and New Mexico seeking reciprocity in Oklahoma in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Reciprocity granted by this form is valid through December 31, 2020.

<b>STATE OF OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</b> <b>-----OFFICE USE ONLY DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE-----</b>	
<b>DRINKING WATER</b>	<b>WASTEWATER</b>
<b>TEMPORARY APPROVAL LEVEL ISSUED:</b>	<b>TEMPORARY APPROVAL LEVEL ISSUED:</b>
<b>DATE ISSUED:</b>	<b>DATE ISSUED:</b>
<b>COMMENTS:</b>	

**OPERATOR REQUESTING RECIPROCITY PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Request reciprocity as **(circle one or both)**: water operator wastewater operator

Present or Prospective Oklahoma Employer \_\_\_\_\_

The state where present certificate(s) issued (Include Certificate Number): \_\_\_\_\_

**Water Certificate Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wastewater Certificate Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Date Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

A. Eligibility Requirements for your current certificate

1. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

	Institution, City & State	Graduation Year	Diploma, Degrees, Credit Hours or Certificate Attained
High School/GED			
College or University			

2. Were you required to take a written examination? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Was your current certificate obtained by reciprocity? \_\_\_\_\_ What state \_\_\_\_\_

4. Were you required to receive training before being eligible to take the examination?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If your answer to question #4 was yes, please note those requirements below:

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5. Does the state where present certificate was issued require continuing education (training) before renewing this certificate?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, training hours required \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/CEUs (**circle one**)

6. Please list all other eligibility requirements.

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**B. Please attach a resume describing your water and/or wastewater training and experience, a copy of your present certificate(s), and the name, address and telephone number of contact persons at your previous employers.**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS APPLICATION CONTAINS NO WILLFUL MISREPRESENTATION OR FALSIFICATIONS AND THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY ME IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION, THIS APPLICATION WILL BE REJECTED. FALSIFICATION OF INFORMATION MAY ALSO RESULT IN CIVIL OR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

**OKLAHOMA UTILITY REQUESTING OPERATOR RECIPROCITY PLEASE COMPLETE THE UTILITY INFORMATION BELOW**

Name of Utility: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Utility Official: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Official Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Utility Official email: \_\_\_\_\_

**By completing and submitting this form to DEQ the utility seeking reciprocity for an operator certifies that the request is related to an impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the operator seeking reciprocity meets the required level of Oklahoma certification deemed equivalent by the relevant table in Attachment B, based on the level of certification held in their current state. The utility further acknowledges that this reciprocity is only valid through December 31, 2020.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF UTILITY OFFICIAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**SCAN AND EMAIL COMPLETED FORM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:**

**Andy.callaway@deq.ok.gov  
Or  
Chris.wisniewski@deq.ok.gov**

# **Attachment A**

## **Oklahoma Water and Wastewater Certified Operator Classifications**

## Oklahoma Public Water Supply System and Wastewater Facility Classifications

### Public Water Supply System Classifications

Class	Description	Population Served
D	Required for distribution systems or chlorinated groundwater systems	1,500 or less
C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water treatment plants, distribution systems, and chlorinated or nonchlorinated groundwater systems serving populations greater than 1,500 and up to and including 15,000;</li> <li>2. Surface water treatment plants serving a population of 15,000 or less;</li> <li>3. Groundwater systems utilizing any form of chemical treatment other than chlorination for disinfection only; or</li> <li>4. Water treatment plants classified as a “C” facility by complexity by the DEQ.</li> </ol>	1,500 to 15,000
B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water treatment plants, distribution systems or chlorinated groundwater systems ; or</li> <li>2. All water treatment plants classified as a “B” facility by complexity by DEQ</li> </ol>	15,000 to 50,000
A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water treatment plants, distribution systems, or chlorinated groundwater systems serving populations greater than 50,000; or</li> <li>All water treatment plants classified as an “A” facility by complexity by DEQ</li> </ol>	Greater than 50,000

### Wastewater Treatment Facility Classifications

Class	Description	Population Served
D	Required for total retention lagoons and/or collection systems	1,500 or less
C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wastewater works and/or collection system facilities serving populations greater than 1,500 and up to and including 15,000;</li> <li>2. Discharging wastewater facilities serving 15,000 or less; or</li> <li>3. Wastewater works classified as a “C” facility by complexity by DEQ</li> </ol>	1,500 to 15,000
B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wastewater works and/or collection systems; or</li> <li>2. All wastewater works classified as a “B” facility by complexity by DEQ</li> </ol>	15,000 to 50,000
A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wastewater works and/or collection systems serving populations greater than 50,000; or</li> <li>2. All wastewater works classified as an “A” facility by complexity by DEQ</li> </ol>	Greater than 50,000

Please see the DEQ Operator Certification Webpage for additional information.

<https://www.deq.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/deqmainresources/710.pdf>

# **Attachment B**

**Oklahoma Water and Wastewater Operator Classification  
Equivalency Tables  
For  
Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Colorado & New Mexico**



State of Current Certification	Oklahoma Drinking Water Operator Requirement Equivalency Table			
	Class D	Class C	Class B	Class A
<b>KS</b>				
Class I	X			
Class II	X	X		
Class III	X	X	X	
Class IV	X	X	X	X
Small	X			
<b>CO</b>				
Class D	X			
Class C	X	X	X	
Class B	X	X	X	
Class A	X	X	X	X
<b>TX</b>				
Class D	X			
Class C Surface OR Ground	X	X		
Class C Distribtuion	X			
Class B Surface OR Ground	X	X	X	
Class B Distribution	X			
Class A	X	X	X	X
<b>MO</b>				
Class D	X			
Class C	X	X		
Class B	X	X	X	
Class A	X	X	X	X
<b>NM</b>				
Water Supply Lvl 1	X			
Water Supply Lvl 2	X	X		
Water Supply Lvl 3	X	X	X	
Water Supply Lvl 4	X	X	X	X
Distribution 1-3	X			
<b>AR</b>				
Grade I	X			
Grade II	X	X		
Grade III	X	X	X	
Grade IV	X	X	X	X

State Of Current Certification	Oklahoma Wastewater Operator Requirement Equivalency Table			
	Class D	Class C	Class B	Class A
<b>KS</b>				
Class I	X			
Class II	X	X		
Class III	X	X	X	
Class IV	X	X	X	X
<b>CO</b>				
Class D	X			
Class C	X	X		
Class B	X	X	X	
Class A	X	X	X	X
<b>TX</b>				
Class D	X			
Class C	X	X		
Class B	X	X	X	
Class A	X	X	X	X
<b>MO</b>				
Class D	X			
Class C	X	X		
Class B	X	X	X	
Class A	X	X	X	X
<b>AR</b>				
Class I	X			
Class II	X	X		
Class III	X	X	X	
Class IV	X	X	X	X
<b>NM</b>				
Wastewater lvl 1	X			
Wastewater lvl 2	X	X		
Wastewater lvl 3	X	X	X	
Wastewater lvl 4	X	X	X	X
Collection 1-2	X			