



Water and Wastewater Works Advisory Board

**State of Alaska
Department of Environmental Conservation**

Policy Statement 2010-02 Continuing Education for Certificate Renewal

Background

Continuing education is required as a condition of renewal for all water/wastewater operator certificates. The department recognizes the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) as a unit of education. One CEU is equivalent to 10 contact hours of education. Regulation 18 AAC 74.810 sets forth the continuing education requirement for renewal of the various certificate types offered by the department. Board policy 2010-01 sets forth the criteria for evaluating courses for continuing education credit.

Introduction

Throughout the history of the certification program, the department has counted a variety of courses toward the renewal of operator certificates. Some courses, while not specific to the water or wastewater industry, have a peripheral relevance to the profession. The department has long struggled with the question of how to recognize peripherally related courses (non-core courses), while maintaining some standard for requiring courses specific to the industry (core courses). In the past, non-core courses were recognized as equal to core courses. As a result, certificates were often renewed based upon meeting the entire CEU requirement with courses not specifically related to the water/wastewater industry.

Discussion

The Board wishes to strengthen the continuing education requirements necessary for certificate renewal by emphasizing the importance of education specifically related to the water/wastewater profession.

Policy

The department will apply the following criteria when determining eligibility of CEUs toward the operator certification renewal requirements:

A. Provisional through Level 4 Certificates

1. Per regulation, three CEUs of education are required during the three years prior to the expiration of all Provisional through level 4 certificates.
2. Of the three CEUs required for renewal, two CEUs must be core to the water or wastewater industry.

B. Small, Treated Certificates

1. Per regulation, one CEU of education is required during the three years prior to the expiration of a small, treated certificate.
2. The one CEU required for renewal of a small, treated certificate must be core to the water industry.

C. Small, Untreated Certificate

1. Per regulation, 0.5 CEUs of education are required during the three years prior to the expiration of a small, untreated certificate.
2. The 0.5 CEUs required for renewal of a small, untreated certificate must be core to the water industry.

D. Summary Table

Level of certificate	Total number of CEUs required during the three years prior to expiration	Number of CEUs that must be core to the water/wastewater industry
Provisional, 1, 2, 3, 4	3.0	2.0 (water or wastewater)
Small, Treated	1.0	1.0 (water only)
Small, Untreated	0.5	0.5 (water only)

Adopted this twenty-seventh day of October, 2010

/Mark Buggins/ Mark Buggins

Chair, Water and Wastewater Works Advisory Board

Amended to delete the waiving of the CEU renewal requirement for water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment, and wastewater collection certificates when passing level 2 or higher exams in a different system type and for small, untreated and small, treated water system certificates when passing a water treatment or water distribution exam provisional level or higher exam. (Effective 12/3/90 90-T-01; amended 9/17/02 02-T-04; amended 5/8/09 2009-07; amended 10/27/10 2010-02)