

Table 3: Certification Requirements

Operator-in-Training				
Education		Operating Experience		
High school diploma, GED, or equivalent		3 months (minimum 500 hours) at Class I or higher facility/system, or completion of approved basic Operator training course		
Operator				
Level	Education	Certification Level*	Operating Experience	DRC Operation
Level I	High school diploma, GED, or equivalent	N/A	12 months (1,800 hours) at Class I or higher facility/system	N/A
Level II	N/A	Level I	3 years (minimum 5,400 hours) at Class I or higher facility/system	N/A
Level III	2 years ¹ of directly applicable post-secondary education**	Level II	4 years (minimum 7,200 hours) at Class II or higher facility/system	2 years or 90 CEUs ² at Class II or higher facility for Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Operators
				0 years ³ for Water Distribution or Wastewater Collection Operators
Level IV	4 years ⁴ of post-secondary training/education***	Level III	4 years (7,200 hours) at Class III or higher facility	2 years ⁵ or 180 CEUs at Class III or higher facility for Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Operators
				0 years ⁶ for Water Distribution or Wastewater Collection Operators
Small Water System / Small Wastewater System / Bulk Water Delivery Operator				
Education		Operating Experience		
Minimum 1.2 CEUs		6 months (minimum 50 hours) hands-on experience		
Multi-Utility Operator				
Level	Education		Certification Level	Operating Experience
Level I	High school diploma, GED, or equivalent		N/A	12 months (minimum 1,000 hours) at two or more Class I or higher facilities/ systems, including 500 hours in desired utility****
	Completion of approved training course with minimum 0.6 CEUs (specifically approved for Multi-Utility certification in desired utility)			
Level II	Completion of approved training course with minimum 0.6 CEUs		Level I Multi-Utility or Level I	36 months (minimum 3,000 hours) at two or more Class I or higher facilities/ systems, including 1,500 hours in desired utility

* All certificates must be in "good standing."

** Diploma of Water Environment Technology or Water Quality Technology, or training/education in the water or wastewater field (including core and related education/training): 900 instructional hours, or 90 CEUs, or 90 quarter credits, or 60 semester credits.

*** Training/education in water or wastewater field (including core and related education/training): 1,800 instructional hours, or 180 CEUs, or 180 quarter credits, or 120 semester credits.

**** The utilities worked in must serve a permanent population of 10,000 people or less.

¹ DRC experience over and above the 2-year requirement can be used as an education exchange for up to 45 CEUs. This means that 12 months (1,500 hours) of DRC is equivalent to 45 CEUs.

² Education over and above the required 90 CEUs can be used as a DRC exchange for up to 1 year of DRC. This means that with 135 CEUs, only 1 year of DRC is required.

³ DRC experience is not required but can be used as an education exchange for up to 45 CEUs. This means that 1,500 hours of DRC can be substituted for 45 CEUs.

⁴ DRC experience over and above the 4-year requirement can be used as an education exchange for up to 90 CEUs. This means that 24 months (3,000 hours) of DRC is equivalent to 90 CEUs.

⁵ Education over and above the required 180 CEUs can be used as a DRC exchange for up to 1 year of DRC. This means that with 225 CEUs, only 1 year of DRC is required.

⁶ DRC experience is not required but can be used as an education exchange for up to 90 CEUs. This means that 24 months (3,000 hours) of DRC is equivalent to 90 CEUs.

