

Steps to Become a Limited System Operator

Operator Certification Requirements for Small Drinking Water Systems

Operator Certification Requirements:

Ontario Regulations 170/03 and 128/04 of the Safe Drinking Water Act require that persons operating the following types of drinking water systems hold a Limited System certificate or the applicable Class 1 to 4 drinking water system certificate:

- small municipal residential systems (groundwater)
- non-municipal year-round residential systems
- large non-municipal non-residential systems serving a designated facility
- large municipal non-residential systems serving a designated facility

Types of Limited System Certificates:

A Limited System certificate is specifically targeted for the operating requirements of small drinking water systems.

There are two types of Limited System Certificates:

- Limited Surface Water Certificates; and
- Limited Groundwater Certificates

If your drinking water source is considered to be surface water (or under the influence of surface water), the person operating the system must hold either a Limited Surface Water Certificate or a Water Treatment Certificate (Classes 1- 4).

If your drinking water source is considered to be groundwater (not under the influence of surface water), the person operating the system may hold any of the following: a Limited Surface Water certificate, a Limited Groundwater Certificate, a Water Treatment certificate (Class 1-4) or a Water Distribution and Supply Certificate (Class 1- 4).

A person who only holds an Operator-In-Training certificate is **not** allowed to operate a limited system.

Steps to Obtaining a Limited System Certificate:

1. Complete the Operation of Small Drinking Water Systems correspondence course available through the Walkerton Clean Water Centre – www.wcwc.ca 1-866-515-0550. Keep your course certificate.
2. Apply to write the Limited System Operator exam:
 - a. Complete the Examination Registration Form (**Form 1858**) available on the ministry website at www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/drinking-water.
 - b. If you do not hold an OIT or Class 1 - 4 certificate or licence, you must verify Grade 12 or other training/qualifications considered equivalent to Grade 12 with your exam application.
 - c. Submit your completed exam application form to OWWCO with payment and the required documentation.
3. Pass the Limited Groundwater or Limited Surface Water Exam.
4. Apply to obtain your Certificate:
 - a. Complete the Limited Subsystem Certificate Application Form (**Form 1856**) available on the ministry website.
 - b. Submit your completed application form to OWWCO with payment and proof that you completed the Operation of Small Drinking Water Systems course.
 - c. Refer to the Check List (Section F) on the form for application requirements.
5. Obtain your Limited System Certificate.

For information on maintaining and renewing your Limited System Certificate, refer to the **Guide to Drinking Water Operator Training Requirements** available on the ministry website.