

# Ontario Drinking Water and Wastewater Certification Exams



## *Upcoming Exam Changes*

### **April 1, 2019 – New Exam Booklets**

Effective April 1, 2019, exam booklets used for **Class 1 to 4** operator certification and **water quality analyst** examinations will have a new look. The all-in-one booklets combine the exam, scantron sheet, scrap paper and formula/conversion tables. Ontario exam content will remain unchanged until July 1, 2019 (see below). The new booklets are provided by the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) and they will mark the exams.

ABC is an Iowa based organization that has developed certification exams adopted by jurisdictions throughout Canada and the United States. Ontario is a member of ABC and has been using their exam question bank for the past 30 years.

#### **ABC exam marking – What to expect:**

- You will continue to receive your exam marks from OWWCO within 30 days.
- OWWCO will continue to provide your mastery report.

### **July 1, 2019 – ABC Standardized Exams**

On July 1, 2019, Ontario will adopt ABC standardized exams for **Class 1 to 4** drinking water and wastewater operator certification examinations, replacing the current Ontario exams. The standardized exams were developed in 2017 and have been adopted throughout Canada and the United States. The **water quality analyst, water distribution** and **operator-in-training** exams will continue to use current Ontario exam content.

#### **Standardized Examinations (Class 1 to 4)**

- Water Treatment
- Water Distribution and Supply
- Wastewater Treatment
- Wastewater Collection

#### **Standardized Exam Format**

- Multiple choice
- Includes both metric and imperial units
- 110 questions, 10 of which are not included in the final score
- No regulatory questions, as the exams are used in other jurisdictions

#### **Preparing for Your Exam Scheduled on/after July 1st:**

- Visit [http://www.abccert.org/testing\\_services/2017StandardizedExams.asp](http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/2017StandardizedExams.asp) for:
  - Updated Need-to-know criteria
  - New formula/conversion tables for the new exams
- Study material developed for the standardized exams can be purchased through OWWCO.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ontario Water Wastewater Certification Office (OWWCO)

Email: [www.owwco.ca/contact](http://www.owwco.ca/contact)

Phone: 416-231-2100 (toll free: 1-877-231-2122).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why do the standardized exams being implemented July 1<sup>st</sup> have 110 questions?**

*The 10 additional questions will help ABC gather data about new items before they are included in future exams. These questions are unidentified and will not be included in the final score. Their level of difficulty is appropriate and consistent with the level of difficulty of the scored questions.*

### **Will ABC send me my exam mark?**

*No, ABC cannot provide your exam mark. OWWCO will send you your exam mark.*

### **If I want to check the status of my exam mark, should I follow-up with ABC?**

*No. Please contact OWWCO if you want to check on the status of your exam mark.*

### **How were the exams developed?**

*Exams were developed based on results from a 2014-15 job analysis conducted by ABC where input from over 7,000 industry stakeholders was collected. Operators from Ontario and across Canada were involved in developing the exam questions. The new exams were piloted in Ontario in Spring, 2017.*

### **After July 1, do water distribution operators have to take the ABC standardized water distribution and supply exam?**

*No, distribution operators will continue to write the current Ontario water distribution exam.*

### **Do these changes impact operator-in-training exams?**

*No, operator-in-training exams will continue to use the current Ontario exams. They will also use the current exam booklets and will be marked by OWWCO.*