

Operator Certification Bulletin

ISSN 2818-0895

In this Issue:

➤➤➤ Spotlight: “As of Right”

➤➤➤ Announcements:

- eForm news
- Small drinking water systems:
 - WCWC: New small drinking water systems course
 - MECP: Outreach initiative for DW compliance
- OWWCO: New wastewater course listing

“As of Right” for operators or water quality analysts moving to Ontario

Temporary Deemed Certification for out-of-province applicants

Ontario has introduced a new temporary deemed certification option for eligible operators and Water Quality Analysts (WQAs) certified in other Canadian provinces or territories. Through an online “As of Right” application, eligible operators and WQAs can now apply to be temporarily deemed certified in Ontario for up to 6 months under the Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009.

This streamlined process allows operators to start working in Ontario while completing a full Reciprocity Application for long-term certification.



“As of Right”- based application

Obtain temporary Deemed Certification in Ontario

Did you know?

Ontario recognizes operator and Water Quality Analyst certifications from other Canadian provinces and territories. Start working in Ontario while your full application is processed through the new “As of Right” pathway.

Under the Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009, eligible operators and WQAs can now:

- submit “As of Right” application through [OWWCO](http://www.owwco.com)
- provide a copy of their valid out-of-province certificate(s)
- receive a Notice of Receipt within 10 business days, confirming “deemed certified” status in Ontario
- work in Ontario for a one time 6-month period



Reciprocity: the recommended approach

The standard pathway for out-of-province applicants under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement continues to be available through an application for certification through reciprocity. Through this process, the operator or WQA will be issued an Ontario certificate of the same type and class if:

- the applicant's out-of-province certificate is valid
- they remain in good standing
- any conditions, restrictions or limitations on the applicant's out-of-province certificate can also be applied in Ontario

Complete a reciprocity application to continue working in Ontario beyond the 6-month deemed certification period

The Canadian Free Trade Agreement provides mutual recognition of certification across Canadian jurisdictions, except for Quebec.

Contact the specific provincial certification authority for their current procedures.

Reciprocity applicants must:

- complete the Reciprocity Application section of the [Drinking Water Certificate and Wastewater Licence Application form 2136E](#)
- submit a copy of their certificate
- pay the required fee

OW/WCO will then verify the certificate with the issuing jurisdiction. If all requirements are met, an Ontario certificate will be issued within 30 days of the application.

Ensure applications are complete to avoid delays.

For more details and to apply visit

www.owwco.ca



eForm news

The Exam Registration form, launched on December 8, 2025, is the latest form to join the list of modernized electronic forms (eForms) introduced by the Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program. This form is used to:

- register for any drinking water or wastewater certification exam
- request issuance of the OIT certificate(s) or licence(s)

! Exam registration eForm details to note !

Alternate site name and exam date field

- The alternate exam site name and date fields allow you to identify your second-choice exam session. If your preferred session is unavailable, OWWCO will automatically register you into your alternate exam session if space is available, eliminating the need for follow-up to confirm a new date.
 - Common reasons you may not be registered for your preferred exam session include:
 - a complete application, including all required information, is not received at least 4 weeks prior to your preferred exam date
 - your preferred exam session is full when your application is processed
 - When completing the alternate date:
 - choose a date and location from the Exam Schedule that you will be able to attend if your preferred exam session is unavailable.

Application confirmation and receipt

- The email you receive once you submit and pay for your exam application confirms OWWCO will be reviewing your application and includes:
 - the payment receipt in the body of the email
 - a copy of your application as an attachment
- Once you are registered for your exam, OWWCO will send a second email which contains:
 - the details of the exam (including the type of exam, location, date, time)
 - your exam registration letter as an attachment. You must bring this letter with you to your exam

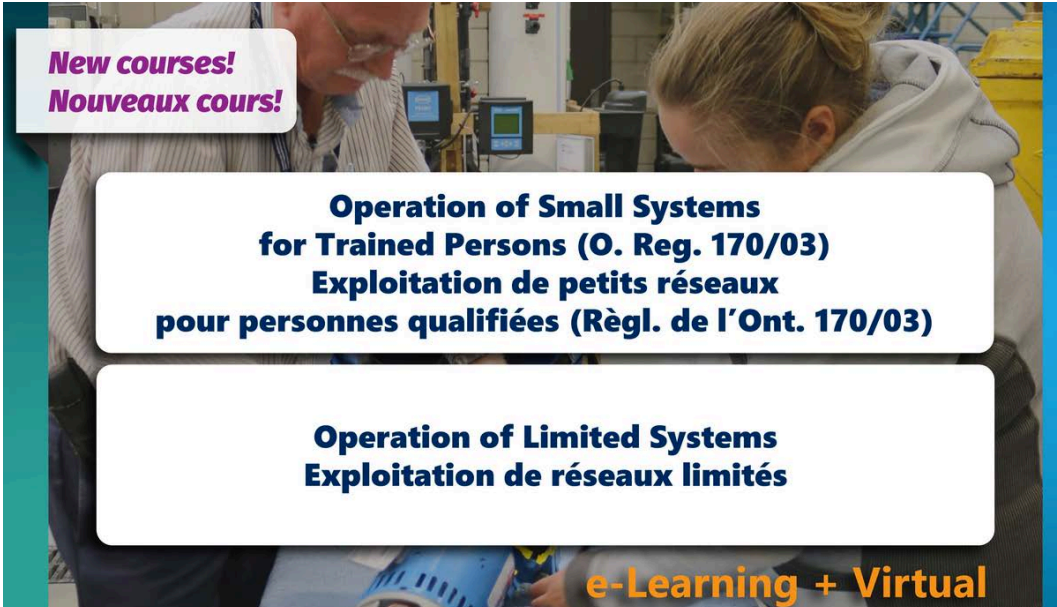
Announcements

New mandatory small drinking water system courses

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Walkerton Clean Water Centre are pleased to announce the launch of two new mandatory small drinking water system courses for individuals working towards their limited system operator certificate or Trained Person designation.

Replacing the previous Operation of Small Drinking Water Systems course, the following new courses will be specific to the type of drinking water system operated:

- Operation of Limited Systems course – for individuals working in limited ground water and limited surface water subsystems
- Operation of Small Systems for Trained Persons (O. Reg. 170/03) course – for individuals working in small drinking water systems serving designated facilities as defined under Ontario Regulation 170/03 on Drinking Water Systems.



New courses!
Nouveaux cours!

**Operation of Small Systems
for Trained Persons (O. Reg. 170/03)**
**Exploitation de petits réseaux
pour personnes qualifiées (Règl. de l'Ont. 170/03)**

Operation of Limited Systems
Exploitation de réseaux limités

e-Learning + Virtual

Visit the Walkerton Clean Water Centre [e-learning page](#) for more information or to register, wcwc.ca/registration or contact WCWC at 866-515-0550 or training@wcwc.ca.



Announcements

Small drinking water system cont...

The new courses were launched in January 2026 and feature refreshed content focusing on the type of system. Both courses will be delivered in 2 steps:

- a self-paced e-learning component
- a scheduled live, virtual session with a trainer

The e-learning and virtual delivery of the courses provides better access and increased flexibility for participants.



People who have previously completed the Operation of Small Drinking Water Systems Course do not need to immediately take the new Operation of Small Systems for Trained Persons (O. Reg. 170/03) course to maintain their designation.

A Trained Person status is good for 36 months from the date of completion of training, either the course completed to initially obtain the Trained Person designation or courses completed to maintain the designation.

New outreach initiative to support drinking water compliance

This summer, MECP is launching a targeted outreach project to support drinking water systems serving designated facilities across Ontario. The initiative will gather key information on trained persons - such as designation expiry dates and recent training - to enable future reminder notifications and reduce common compliance issues.

The project will also deliver tailored education and outreach to help operators better understand and meet regulatory requirements. The work will be carried out by MECP summer students, providing them with meaningful, hands-on experience that supports drinking water protection and builds interest in careers in the water sector and the Ontario Public Service.

For designated facilities under O. Reg. 170/03: Drinking Water Systems



OWWCO expands training provider course listings to include wastewater training

The Ontario Water Wastewater Certification Office (OWWCO) is pleased to announce the launch of a Wastewater Course Listing on the OWWCO website. This new listing represents another important step in supporting Ontario's certified and licensed operators and the employers who rely on them.

Supporting operators across the full water sector

Wastewater professionals play a critical role in protecting public health and the environment. By introducing a centralized, wastewater course listing, OWWCO is providing operators with a clear, reliable way to locate training providers who offer wastewater courses.

Greater clarity for employers and training providers

The wastewater course listing will also benefit employers, municipalities, and training providers.

Employers will be able to:

- identify training options for staff development
- support workforce planning and succession

For training providers, the listing provides visibility and awareness of their wastewater courses, making it easier for operators to find relevant training opportunities.



Wastewater training listing cont...

Streamlined access through the OWWCO website

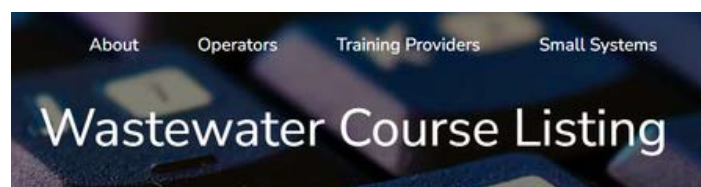
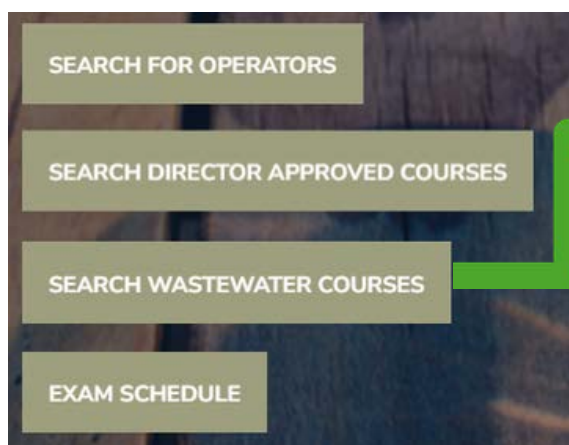
The wastewater course listing is available on the OWWCO website. Operators and employers will be able to view:

- course titles
- delivery methods (e.g., classroom, online, blended)
- provider information

Wastewater courses are not Director Approved Courses. Courses which deal solely with wastewater or stormwater topics do not meet the criteria for Director approval and cannot be used to meet the training requirements for a drinking water certificate renewal

This wastewater course listing is provided to assist wastewater operators and employers in identifying training opportunities that have been reviewed by OWWCO to determine their CEU value

Wastewater courses not listed can still count towards the education requirement for your wastewater licence upgrade



Housing this information in 1 location supports OWWCO's ongoing commitment to clarity, accessibility, and effective communication with Ontario's water and wastewater community.

To access the course listings, please visit the [OWWCO website](#).

Operators, employers, and training providers are encouraged to check the OWWCO website regularly for updates.



The Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Bulletin is a publication of the Certification and Licensing Programs Office, Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

<http://www.ontario.ca/Environment>

ISSN 2818-0895

© King's Printer for Ontario, 2026

