

**SUBCHAPTER J: WASTEWATER OPERATORS AND OPERATIONS COMPANIES**  
**§§30.331, 30.337, 30.340, 30.342, 30.346, 30.348, 30.350, 30.355**  
**Effective September 27, 2007**

**§30.331. Purpose and Applicability.**

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to establish qualifications for issuing and renewing licenses and registrations to:

- (1) domestic wastewater treatment facility operators;
- (2) wastewater collection system operators; and
- (3) companies that operate these facilities on a contract basis.

(b) Persons that operate, assist in the operation, or contract to operate domestic wastewater treatment facilities or supervise wastewater collection activities, other than an operator-in-training, must be licensed or registered and meet the qualifications of this subchapter and Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations); and must comply with the requirements in Chapter 317 of this title (relating to Design Criteria for Sewerage Systems), and all other applicable rules under the jurisdiction of this commission.

(c) Operators are responsible for performing adequate process control of wastewater treatment and collection facilities.

(d) All Class D and Class I licenses previously issued to operators who do not possess a high school diploma or equivalent, may still be renewed according to §30.342 of this title (relating to Qualifications for License Renewal).

(e) An individual who has an honorary license shall not operate a domestic wastewater treatment facility or supervise a wastewater collection system.

(f) Certificates of competency or registration issued before January 1, 2002, remain in effect until they expire, or are replaced or revoked by the commission.

(g) The holder of a license or registration is not subject to revocation or suspension of a license or registration if the licensed operator or registered company is unable to properly operate the wastewater treatment or collection facility due to:

- (1) the refusal of the permittee to authorize the necessary funds to operate the wastewater treatment or collection facility properly; or

(2) the failure of the wastewater treatment or collection facility to comply with its wastewater disposal permit resulting from faulty design or construction of the facility.

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**§30.337. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) **Chief operator**--The licensed operator with overall responsibility for the operation of a wastewater treatment facility.

(2) **Designated courses**--Courses or their equivalent which are required to obtain a wastewater operator license.

(3) **Domestic wastewater**--Waste and wastewater from humans or household operations that are discharged to a wastewater collection system or otherwise enters a wastewater facility.

(4) **Honorary license**--License converted from a perpetual license which has been discontinued by the commission.

(5) **Operator-in-charge**--Licensed operator who has been charged with the on-site supervision and operation of the wastewater facility in the absence of the chief operator.

(6) **Operator-in-training**--An individual entering the field of wastewater treatment or collection for the first time who has less than one year of experience and is in training to operate a wastewater treatment facility, or supervise a wastewater collection system.

(7) **Wastewater collection system**--Lines, manholes, pumps, pumping stations, and other components necessary to collect and transport domestic wastewater.

(8) **Wastewater collection system operator**--Any individual, in active field supervision, who provides daily on-site inspection and supervision of wastewater collection system operation or maintenance activities.

(9) **Wastewater disposal permit**--A domestic wastewater disposal permit issued by the commission in accordance with Texas Water Code, Chapter 26.

(10) **Wastewater treatment facility**--Any facility installed for the purpose of treating, neutralizing, or stabilizing wastewater, the operation of which requires a wastewater disposal permit from the commission.

(11) **Wastewater system operations company**--Any person or other nongovernmental entity that provides operations services, on a contract basis, to one or more wastewater treatment facilities or collection systems.

(12) **Wastewater treatment facility operator**--An individual who performs process control tasks or makes performance control decisions at a wastewater treatment facility.

(13) **Work experience**--The actual performance of job tasks in domestic wastewater, considered essential for the treatment or collection of domestic wastewater.

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**§30.340. Qualifications for Initial License.**

(a) To obtain a license, an individual must have met the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations), and the following requirements for each class of license:

<b>License</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Required Work Experience</b>	<b>Required Training</b>
Class D or Class I	High School diploma (HSD) or Equivalent	0	20 hours
Class C or Class II	HSD or equivalent	2 years	60 hours
Class B or Class III	Bachelors HSD or equivalent	2½ years 5 years	100 hours 100 hours
Class A	Masters Bachelors HSD or equivalent	4 years 5 years 8 years	160 hours 160 hours 160 hours

(b) At least one-half of the total experience required for a wastewater treatment license must be in actual domestic wastewater treatment facility operation or maintenance duties. Related experience, which involves tasks similar to those required for operation of wastewater treatment facilities, will count at a rate of 50% toward meeting the total experience requirement. For laboratory experience to be applicable, the laboratory must be owned and operated by the permittee and the laboratory technician must consult daily with operational personnel.

(c) Wastewater collection system experience must be in actual wastewater collection system operation or maintenance duties. Credit for wastewater experience that is not directly connected with collection system operation or maintenance shall be approved if the experience involves tasks that are similar to that required for the operation and maintenance of collection systems. Each year of related experience shall count as 1/2 year of experience. Each year of experience in collection system operation and maintenance shall only count as 1/2 year of experience toward a wastewater treatment facility operator license.

(d) Individuals who request to substitute a bachelors or masters degree for experience at the Class A, Class B, or Class III level must have a major in chemistry, biology, engineering, microbiology, bacteriology, or another similar discipline, as approved by the executive director.

(e) Applicants may substitute an equivalent of:

(1) 32 semester hours of college or an additional 40 hours of training credits for one year of the experience requirement; or

(2) 16 semester hours of college or an additional 20 hours of training credits for six months of the experience requirement.

(f) The maximum years allowed for substitution are as follows:

(1) Class A, Class B, and Class III applicants may substitute up to two years of the required work experience; and

(2) Class C and Class II applicants may substitute up to one year of the required work experience.

(g) The hours of training credit required for a license must be in approved courses, which include the following or their equivalents.

<b>License</b>	<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Elective Courses</b>
Class D	Basic Wastewater Operation	None
Class C	Basic Wastewater Operation Activated Sludge or Wastewater Treatment plus one elective course	Wastewater Collection Wastewater Laboratory Water Utility Calculations Water Utility Safety

Class B	Activated Sludge or Wastewater Treatment Wastewater Collection Wastewater Laboratory Water Utility Safety plus one elective course	Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory Water Utility Calculations Water Utility Management
Class A	Activated Sludge or Wastewater Treatment Wastewater Collection Wastewater Laboratory Water Utility Management Water Utility Safety plus one elective course	Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory Water Utility Calculations Wastewater Technology Advanced Management
Class I	Wastewater Collection	None
Class II	Basic Wastewater Operation Wastewater Collection plus one elective course	Water Utility Safety Pump and Motor Maintenance
Class III	Basic Wastewater Operation Wastewater Collection Water Utility Safety Pump and Motor Maintenance plus one elective course	Intermediate Wastewater Laboratory Water Utility Management Water Utility Calculations Pre-treatment Facility Inspection

(h) An individual who previously held a Class D license or higher may not apply for a new Class D license if the individual currently operates any activated sludge type facilities, any trickling filter or rotating biological contractor facilities with a permitted daily average flow of 100,000 gallons per day or greater, or any facility that uses a subsurface area drip dispersal system as defined in §222.5 of this title (relating to Definitions) for disposal of its effluent. A trickling filter or rotating biological contractor is a secondary aerobic process that uses microbiological organisms attached to a fixed substrate.

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**§30.342. Qualifications for License Renewal.**

(a) To renew a license, an individual must have:

(1) met the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations) and completed a total amount of approved continuing education equal to that of ten hours per year the license is valid; or

(2) met the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter and passed the examination for the license.

(b) The basic wastewater operation course may not be used to renew a Class B or A license.

(c) Class D licenses are not renewable for operators of:

(1) any activated sludge type facilities;

(2) any trickling filter or rotating biological contractor (RBC) facilities with a permitted daily average flow of 100,000 gallons per day or greater. A trickling filter or RBC facility is a facility that uses secondary aerobic biological processes for treatment of sewage;

(3) any facility that uses a subsurface area drip dispersal system as defined in §222.5 of this title (relating to Definitions) for disposal of its effluent.

(d) To renew an active converted perpetual license, an individual must have met the requirements of this section, with the exception of the renewal fee.

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**§30.346. Qualifications for Initial Registration.**

To obtain a registration, a person must meet the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations).

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**§30.348. Qualifications for Registration Renewal.**

To renew a registration a person must meet the requirements of Subchapter A of this chapter (relating to Administration of Occupational Licenses and Registrations).

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**§30.350. Classification of Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Wastewater Collection Systems, and Licenses Required.**

(a) Operators of remote or mobile sludge processing facilities are required to hold a valid Class D or higher license.

(b) Operators of domestic wastewater treatment facilities owned and located on industrial sites that are regulated by industrial-type wastewater disposal permits are required to be licensed, only if the point of discharge is separate from any other industrial outfalls and the domestic wastewater is not mixed with other industrial wastewater before discharge.

(c) An individual first entering the field of wastewater treatment or collection may be employed as an operator-in-training for a period up to one year. An operator-in-training must perform all process control tasks in the presence of a licensed operator.

(d) Each holder of a wastewater disposal permit for a wastewater treatment facility shall employ or contract with one or more licensed wastewater treatment facility operators holding the appropriate level of license or wastewater system operations companies holding a valid registration and employing licensed wastewater treatment facility operators holding the appropriate level of license.

(e) Domestic wastewater treatment facilities will be classified in accordance with the following criteria.

<b>Treatment System</b>	<b>Permitted Daily Average Flow</b>	<b>Category</b>
No Discharge Treatment Systems	All flows with a disposal system other than a subsurface area drip dispersal system	D
	All flows with subsurface area drip dispersal systems	C
Pond Systems Preceded by Imhoff Tanks, Primary Clarifiers, or Facultative Lagoons	1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) or less	D
	Greater than 1.0 MGD	C
Activated Sludge (Extended Aeration Mode) and Oxidation Ditch Systems	0.10 MGD or less	D
	Greater than 0.10 MGD to 1.0 MGD	C
	Greater than 1.0 MGD to 10.0 MGD	B
	Greater than 10.0 MGD	A
Activated Sludge (Modes other than Extended Aeration)	0.050 MGD or less	D
	Greater than 0.050 MGD to 1.0 MGD	C
	Greater than 1.0 MGD to 10.0 MGD	

	Greater than 10.0 MGD	B A
Trickling Filter, Rotating Biological Contactor, or other Fixed Film Processes	0.50 MGD or less Greater than 0.50 MGD to 2.0 MGD Greater than 2.0 MGD to 10.0 MGD Greater than 10.0 MGD	D C B A

(f) Category D wastewater treatment facilities shall be reclassified as Category C facilities if any of the following conditions exist:

(1) a Category D facility incorporating anaerobic sludge digestion, except Imhoff tanks with sludge drawn off to drying beds;

(2) a Category D facility whose permit requires nutrient reduction; or

(3) a Category D facility whose permit requires the final effluent to meet a daily average biochemical oxygen demand<sub>5</sub> or total suspended solids concentration less than ten milligrams per liter.

(g) A wastewater treatment facility having a combination of treatment processes that are in different categories shall be assigned the higher category.

(h) The executive director may increase the treatment facility classification for facilities which include unusually complex processes or present unusual operation or maintenance conditions.

(i) The chief operator of each wastewater treatment facility must possess a license equal to or higher than that of the category of treatment facility.

(j) Each category of facility must be operated a minimum of five days per week by the licensed chief operator or an operator holding the required level of license or higher. The licensed chief operator or operator holding the required level of license or higher must be available by telephone or pager seven days per week.

(k) When shift operation of the wastewater treatment facility is necessary, each shift must be operated by an operator in charge who is licensed at not less than one level below the category of the facility.

(l) Either the licensed chief operator or licensed operator in charge must be present for scheduled commission inspections.

(m) A licensed wastewater treatment facility operator may perform all duties relating to the operation and maintenance of both wastewater treatment facilities and wastewater collection systems. It is not necessary to hold both types of licenses. A licensed collection system operator may perform only those duties relating to the operation and maintenance of wastewater collection systems.

(n) Each classified wastewater collection system must employ at least one licensed operator who holds a license class equal to or higher than that category of system. . Wastewater collection system operation and maintenance activities shall be supervised and inspected daily by an on-site licensed wastewater operator. Wastewater collection systems shall be classified as follows.

<b>Category of Collection System</b>	<b>Daily Average Flow</b>	<b>Minimum Class of Operator Required</b>
Category I	Less than 100,000 gallons per day (gpd)	Class I or Class D
Category II	100,000 gpd to 1 million gallons per day (MGD)	Class II or Class C
Category III	Over 1 MGD	Class III or Class B

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**§30.355. Additional Requirements for Wastewater Operations Companies.**

(a) When a wastewater operations company submits an application to obtain or renew a registration, it must submit a report to the executive director. For each wastewater treatment facility or wastewater collection system the report shall include:

- (1) the operations company name, location, and mailing address;
- (2) the permittee's name and mailing addresses;
- (3) the commission permit number, if applicable;
- (4) the dates of operation during the registration validity period;
- (5) the names and license numbers of all licensed operators employed by the operations company;
- (6) the name of the licensed chief operator for each facility; and
- (7) any additional information required by the executive director.

(b) A registered wastewater system operations company must apply for a new registration and submit an amended report if the company is bought or sold and the name of the company changes.

(c) Wastewater system operations companies shall pay a three year registration fee based on the number of facilities and collection systems served as indicated in the following table.

<b>Number of Facilities Served</b>	<b>Fee</b>
0 - 4	\$122
5 - 9	\$240
10 - 19	\$399
20 or more	\$636

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