

NR 114 CODE REVISIONS

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS
PROPOSED CHANGES AND HOW THEY WILL AFFECT YOUR CERTIFICATION

FAST FACTS

- Revisions will *only* affect certification of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators
- Revised subclasses
- Operators certified prior to revised rule adoption will receive an equivalent level of certification for each subclass under the new system.
- A new point system will be used for advanced certification.
- Classification for operators and facilities will change from Grades 1-4 to “Basic” and “Advanced” levels.

Grades 1-2 ► Basic
Grades 3-4 ► Advanced



Questions?

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WHY CHANGE? Advancements in treatment technologies along with changes in educational training methods have prompted the WIDNR to seek revision of *Ch. NR 114, Wis. Adm. Code – Certification Requirements for Waterworks, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Septage Servicing and Water System Operators*.

We hope these revisions will help streamline and improve the certification process while providing a wider range of opportunities for operators to obtain advanced certification.

Timeline for Rule Revisions & Implementation

July 1, 2014: Publish Date

July 1, 2015: Effective Date

July 2015: New study guides available

(Except collection systems...see below)

November 4, 2015: First exam day with the new exams



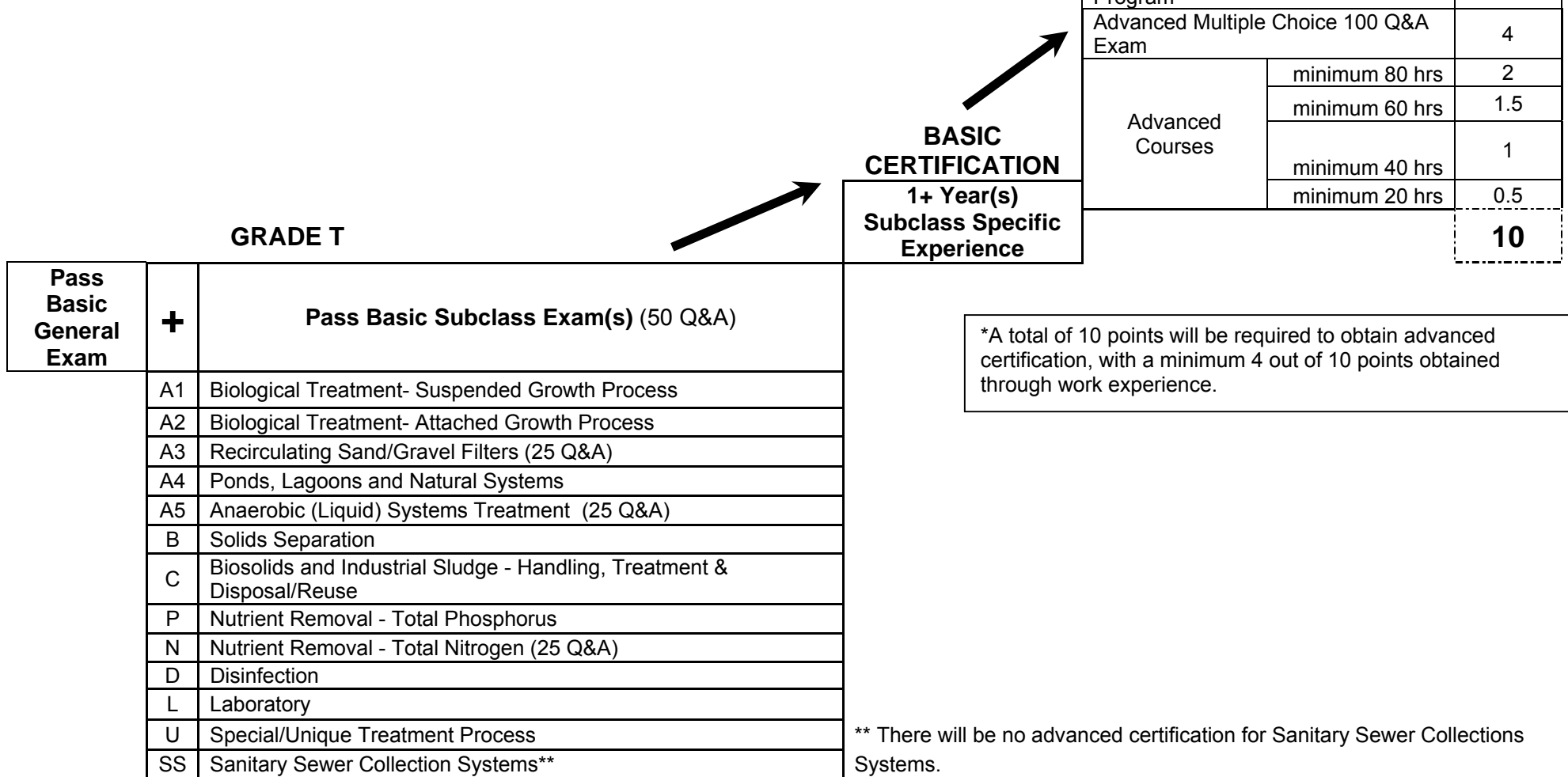
NEW COLLECTION SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

Under the proposed NR 114 revisions, owners of treatment works, which includes the treatment plant and sanitary sewer collection systems associated with it, shall have *at least one operator in charge certified in the new collection system subclass (SS)*. For satellite sewerage collection systems this certification will be voluntary.

This new requirement is being proposed in order to encourage the advancement of operator knowledge and competency in operating and rehabilitating this aging infrastructure. In addition, SS certification will provide the necessary knowledge to develop and implement CMOM programs.

Once the collection system study guide and exam have been developed by the department (2016), collection system operators will have **5 years** to obtain collection system certification upon issuance of their WPDES permits.

STEPS TO GAINING OPERATOR CERTIFICATION UNDER PROPOSED NR 114 REVISIONS



CLASSIFICATION OF WWTPS

Each plant will be classified either as a “Basic” or “Advanced” plant under the revised code. A WWTP is considered advanced if it meets any one or more of the following:

- Is a mechanical plant with an annual average design flow greater than 1.0 MGD
- Has BOD limits of 10 mg/L, or less
- Has surface water limits for total phosphorus or total nitrogen, and utilizes a biological nutrient removal process
- Uses a tertiary phosphorus removal process to achieve ultra-low phosphorus limits
- Is a municipal plant that receives wastewater from a major contributing industry
- Is a municipal plant that produces Class A biosolids

Grandfathering: How Your Certification will Change

Old Description	Old Subclass		New Description	New Subclass
<i>Primary Settling</i>	A	→	Solids Separation	B
<i>Trickling Filters and RBCs</i>	B	→	Biological Treatment - Attached Growth	A2
		→	Solids Separation	B
		→	Biological Solids/Sludge Handling and Processing	C
<i>Activated Sludge</i>	C	→	Biological Treatment - Suspended Growth	A1
		→	Solids Separation	B
		→	Biological Solids/Sludge Handling and Processing	C
<i>Stabilization Ponds and Aerated Lagoons</i>	D	→	Ponds, Lagoons and Natural Systems	A4
<i>Disinfection</i>	E	→	Disinfection	D
<i>Anaerobic Digestion</i>	F	→	Biological Solids/Sludge Handling and Processing	C
<i>Mechanical Sludge Dewatering</i>	G	→	Biological Solids/Sludge Handling and Processing	C
<i>Filtration</i>	H	→	Solids Separation	B
<i>Phosphorus Removal</i>	I	→	Nutrient Removal – Total Phosphorus	P
<i>Laboratory</i>	J	→	Laboratory	L
<i>Special K</i>	K	→	Unique Treatment Process	U
<i>Electroplating/Metal Finishing</i>	L	→	Unique Treatment Process	U

NOTE: The department will use its discretion converting Special K subclasses that are specific to the newly created subclasses.

Grandfathering of Subclass Grades

At the time the code goes into effect, **any operator with a grade 3 or 4 in any subclass (except Special K and Electroplating/Metal Finishing) would receive 10 points towards advanced certification. Having these 10 points, they would become advanced in any subclasses that they are a grade 1 or higher.** One year of subclass specific experience will still be required to go above Operator-in-Training (OIT) in any subclass.

Operators not at Grade 3 or 4, but who have passed the former advanced general wastewater examination and at least 4 advanced subclass examinations, will be granted 4 points for passing the new advanced general examination.

Example Conversion Chart

Current Subclasses-Grades		Converted Subclasses-Grades
<i>Ponds/Aerated Lagoons – T, Disinfection – Grade 3, Filtration – Grade 2</i>	→	Ponds, Lagoons & Natural Systems – OIT, Disinfection – Advanced, Solids Separation – Advanced
<i>Primary Treatment – Grade 2, Mechanical Sludge – Grade 1, Laboratory – T</i>	→	Solids Separation – Basic, Biological Solids/Sludge Handling and Processing – Basic, Laboratory – OIT
<i>Activated Sludge – Grade 2, Mechanical Sludge – Grade 4,</i>	→	Biological Treatment: Suspended Growth – Advanced, Solids Separation – Advanced, Biological Solids/Sludge Handling and Processing – Advanced

NOTE

Proposed changes expressed in this document are not guaranteed to be in the final rule. Rule provisions and language can change when going through the administrative rule making process. While we are optimistic that the code revisions will be well received, we cannot say with any certainty at this time that the revisions described are definite.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In March 2010, the Department established a wastewater operator trainers stakeholder workgroup to assist and advise the Department in revising the certification program for wastewater treatment plant operators. The workgroup consisted of representatives from WWOA, WRWA, private trainers, consultants, technical colleges, UW-Stevens Point, and USEPA.

Several workgroup meetings were held during 2010-2012 in drafting the revisions. Comments and ideas for revisions from the workgroup members contributed significantly to the changes and modernization of the certification program. We thank them for their input on this project.

