

The Deputy's Corner

In this article I will try to cover the major changes in the new Drinking Water Operator Certification Rule, which can be found in 327 IAC 8-12.

One major change can be found in Section 5 327 IAC 8-12-2. This section covers the reclassification of treatment plants and distribution systems. The following is a word for word description of each new classification.

Distribution systems: (1) Class DSS (distribution system small) includes systems that meet the one of the following: "(A) serve a population of less than 3300 people; or (B) have no other components other one of the following: (i) pressure tanks; (ii) storage tanks. (2) Class DSM (distribution system medium) includes systems that meet one of the following: (A) a population greater than 3301, but less than or equal to 10,000 people; (B) have no mechanical means of movement of water other than on of the following: (i) pump; (ii) storage tanks; (iii) booster pumps to storage tanks. (3) Class DSL (distribution system large) includes systems that meet one of the following: (A) serve a population greater than 10,001 people; (B) consist of the following: (i) storage tanks; (ii) booster pumps to the distribution system; (iii) mechanical devices for movement of water beyond storage.

Treatment Plants: Class WT1 includes systems that meet the following: (A) serve a population less than or equal to 500 people; (B) acquire water from one of the following: (i) ground water; (ii) purchase; (C) have one of the following: (i) ion exchange softening process; (ii) inline filtration devices with no chemical treatment. (2) Class WT2 includes systems with no population limitations that meet the following: (A) acquire water from one of the following: (i) ground water; (ii) purchase; (B) utilize chemical feed to achieve on of the following: (i) disinfection; (ii) fluoride stabilization; (iii) water stabilization. (3) Class WT3 includes systems that meet the following: (A) acquire water from one of the following: (i) ground water; (ii) purchase; (B) utilizes chemical feed to achieve one of the following: (i) disinfection; (ii) fluoride standardization; (iii) water stabilization; (iv) coagulation; (v) flocculation; (vi) sedimentation; (C) have one of the following: (i) pressure or gravity filtration for removal of one of the following: (aa) iron; (bb) manganese; (cc) hydrogen sulfide; (ii) Ion exchange process if the population served is greater than 501 people; (iii) lime soda softening; (iv) reverse osmosis. (4) Class WT4 includes systems that meet one of the following: (A) serve a population less than or equal to 10,000 people; (B) acquire water from one of the following: (i) surface water; (ii) ground water under the direct influence of surface water. (5) Class WT5 includes systems that meet the following: (A) serve a population greater than 10,001 people; (B) acquire water from one of the following: (i) surface water; (ii) ground water under the direct influence of surface water. (6) Class WT6 includes systems that utilize newly emerging treatment technology not commonly in us for drinking water treatment in Indiana, as determined by the commissioner.

Section 6 327 IAC 8-12-2.5 deals with the reclassification of treatment plants and distribution systems. This section gives the commissioner authority to reclassify treatment plants and distribution systems based on complexity, or water quality. It also gives basic guidelines as to time frames for obtaining the new required certification if a treatment plant or distribution system requires a higher certification.

Section 8 327 IAC 8-12-3.2 deals with the new requirements needed for an operator to obtain the different level of certifications. For the most part these requirements are the same as with the old certifications, but are now for the DSS, DSM, DSL, WT1, WT2, WT3, etc.

Section 9 327 IAC 8-12-3.4 deals with the certified operator in responsible charge. Changes to this section includes that before an operator in responsible charge begins working for more than one treatment plant or distribution system, the operator must present a letter to each governing body or owner of each plant or system giving them the following information: (A) name and location of each plant or system to be under the responsible charge of the operator; (B) the number of hours per week the certified operator shall work at each plant or system. The following is the requirements for visitation of each classification of treatment plants and distribution systems: (1) Class DSS must: (A) be monitored daily by a dependable person or automated system; and (B) have a certified operator on-site a minimum of two times every week; (2) Class DSM must: (A) be monitored daily by a dependable person or automated system; and (B) have a certified operator on-site a minimum of three times every week; (3) Class DSL must: (A) be monitored daily by a dependable person or automated system; and (B) have a certified operator on-site a minimum of five times every week; (4) Class WT1 must: (A) be monitored daily by a dependable person or automated system; and (B) have a certified operator on-site a minimum of three times every week; (5) Class WT2 must: (A) be monitored daily by a dependable person or automated system; and (B) have a certified operator on-site a minimum of five times every week; (6) Class WT3 must: (A) be monitored daily by a dependable person or automated system; and (B) have a certified operator on-site a minimum of five times every week; (7) Class WT4 must: (A) be monitored daily by a dependable person or automated system; and (B) have a certified operator on-site during water treatment plant operation unless the plant is equipped with an automated system approved by the commissioner; (8) WT5 must have a certified operator on-site during water treatment plant operation unless the plant is equipped with an automated system approved by the commissioner. It also gives the commissioner authority to ask for documentation of the number of systems a certified operator is in responsible charge of, the amount of time spent at each facility and the ability to eliminate some of the facilities under the operator's responsible charge.

Section 10 327 IAC 8-12-3.6 deals with the classification transition. A certified operator whose certification is valid on the effect date of this rule shall transition to a grade according to the following: (1) a grade DS certified operator shall transition to a DSM certification; (2) a grade DS certified operator shall transition to a grade DSL certification if the certified operator has experience in the operation of a distribution system that: (A) serves more than 10,001 people; or (B) is classified as DSL according to Section 2 of this Rule; (3) a grade DS-L certified operator shall transition to a grade DSL certification; (4) a grade CT certified operator shall transition to a grade WT2 certification; (5) a grade PF certified operator shall transition to a grade WT3 certification; (6) a grade GF certified operator shall transition to a Grade WT4 certification; (7) a grade PF certified operator shall transition to a grade WT5 certification if the operator has experience in the operation of a water treatment plant that is classified as WT5 according to Section 2 of this Rule; (8) a grade AT certified operator shall transition to a grade WT3 and WT5 certification.

Section 12 327 IAC 8-12-5 Certification Fees: the fees will remain \$30.00 for the testing and renewal, but the certifications will be good for a three year time period.

Section 15 327 IAC 8-12-7.05 Continuing Education Requirements: the following contact hours will be required for each certification level during the three-year time period. Grade DSS 10; Grade DSM 15; Grade DSL 15; Grade WT1 10; Grade WT2 15; Grade WT3 25; Grade WT4 30; Grade WT5 30; Grade WT6 30. Also for the time first time a minimum of seventy percent of the continuing education hours will have to come from a subject matter of technical material, and no more than thirty percent of the time from subjects in non-technical subject matter. All of the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water's training sessions come from the technical subject matter category.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Drinking Water Section will be setting the new certification levels of all treatment plants and distribution systems.

If you have any questions in regards to the new certification rule please contact us at 1-888-937-4992.