



Drinking Water Facility Specific Operator Certifications Office of Water Quality

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Types of public water systems that may be granted facility specific operator (FSO) certifications:

- **Non-transient non-community** – the following facility classifications may be granted facility specific operator (FSO) certifications:
 - Class DSS systems,
 - Class WT1 systems, and
 - Non-community public water systems of other facility classifications may be granted FSO certifications if the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Commissioner determines that the FSO applicant will adequately perform the tasks necessary for proper operation of the system.
- **Community** (serving 100 or fewer people) – the following facility classifications may be granted FSO certifications:
 - Class DSS systems, and
 - Class WT1 systems.

Requirements for a facility specific operator certification:

- The following requirements must be met in order for a facility specific operator certification to be granted for a public water system:
 - The owner of the system shall designate a person to be in responsible charge of the system.
 - The designee (applicant) must be an employee or member of the public water system.
 - Each applicant shall:
 - Demonstrate proficiency to the IDEM Commissioner in accordance with 327 IAC 8-12-4.5.
 - Meet the requirements of 327 IAC 8-12-3(b)(1).
 - Maintain inventories.
 - Order supplies.
 - Interpret chemical and bacteriological sample reports.
 - A person may hold only one FSO certification at a time, unless the IDEM Commissioner has determined that the FSO operator can maintain each system for which an FSO certification is requested.
- An FSO certification is valid:
 - Only at the site for which the FSO is granted.
 - For three years, during which time the operator shall fulfill the continuing education requirements for the FSO certification as listed in 327 IAC 8-12-7.5 in order to be eligible for certification renewal in accordance with 327 IAC 8-12-7(e)(3).

Invalid, voided or revoked facility specific operator certifications:

- An FSO certification will be invalid if the classification of water treatment plant or water distribution system changes to one requiring a certified operator with more extensive education or experience, such as the following:
 - Increased capacity;
 - An increase in population served;
 - A basic change in the method of water treatment; or
 - Another change in conditions that causes a more difficult or complex operation.
- If an operator granted an FSO certification fails to meet the continuing education requirement of 327 IAC 8-12-7.5 within the time-frame set forth in the rule:
 - The FSO certification becomes voided; and,

- The operator can only become certified by passing the certification examination required by the IDEM Commissioner.
- The IDEM Commissioner may revoke an FSO certification for failure to:
 - Meet the monitoring and reporting requirements of 327 IAC 8-2; or,
 - Operate and maintain the system in a manner that protects human health.

Becoming certified as a facility specific operator:

- A person may become certified as a facility specific operator (FSO) by demonstrating proficiency:
 - Through an examination;
 - Based on completion of an approved training course; or
 - Through another method approved by the IDEM commissioner.
 - Applying for an FSO certification using Indiana State Form 53210, "Facility Specific Operator (FSO) Application for Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution System Operator Certification".
- A standardized examination prepared to reflect the duties and responsibilities required of each FSO water treatment plant and water distribution system certified operator shall be:
 - Conducted at least annually; and,
 - Held at places and times established by the IDEM commissioner.

More Information:

For more information on obtaining an FSO certification, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Drinking Water Branch at (317) 234-7430 or, toll free, at (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-7430.

This technical guidance is intended solely as guidance and does not have the effect of law or represent formal Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) decisions or final actions. This guidance document shall be used in conjunction with applicable rules and statutes. It does not replace applicable rules and statutes, and if it conflicts with these rules and statutes, the rules and statutes shall control.