



FACT SHEET

Certified Operator Requirement for OSWTS (On-Site Wastewater Treatment System)

Wastewater Operator Certification Regulations:

- [401 KAR 11:001](#)—Definitions for 401 KAR Chapter 11
- [401 KAR 11:010](#)—Boards of Certification
- [401 KAR 11:020](#)—Standards of professional conduct for certified operators
- [401 KAR 11:030](#)—Wastewater treatment and collection system operators; classification and qualifications
- [401 KAR 11:050](#)—Operator certification
- [401 KAR 11:060](#)—Certification fees

Certification fees are non-refundable. Please make sure that you meet the minimum education and experience requirements prior to submitting an application to the certification program.

Additional information regarding the operator certification program and the required application forms may be obtained by visiting the program's website at dca.ky.gov/certification.

If you have questions, please contact the Certification and Licensing Program by calling 800-926-8111 or e-mailing envhelp@ky.gov.



Who Must Comply?

- The Division of Water reissued the KPDES General Permit for On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OSWTS) serving Individual Family Residences. The permit became effective Aug. 1, 2013.
- Under the KYG400000, the permittee is required to enter into a maintenance agreement with a certified operator or develop and implement an operation and maintenance plan if the permittee is the certified operator.



How Do I Find a Contract Operator for My OSWTS?

- If you are not a certified wastewater treatment operator and want to hire a contract operator for your on-site wastewater treatment system, visit the OSWTS Contract Operators List at <http://dca.ky.gov/certification/Pages/Employment-Opportunities.aspx>.



How Do I Become a Certified Operator for My OSWTS?

- Apply for a Class I Operator in Training (OIT) Wastewater Treatment license and pass the examination.



How Does Someone Become An OIT?

- OITs must pass the appropriate operator certification exam.
- To apply for the exam, individuals must submit the following to the Certification and Licensing Branch: the [Education and Experience Documentation Form](#), [Registration Form for Exams and Training](#) and appropriate fee. The examination fee of \$100 must be submitted with the forms. Applicants may choose to attend the certification preparatory training prior to the examination. The fee for the preparatory training must be submitted with the forms and examination fee. The fees are listed on the bottom of the Registration Form for Exams and Training. (currently \$90 for the three-day preparatory training—\$190 for certification preparatory school and exam)
- The schedule of examination dates are located on the program's [website](#).



Can An OIT Be in Responsible Charge?

- A Wastewater Treatment Class I-OIT who operates a wastewater treatment plant owned by the operator that serves only one residence may have primary responsibility for that plant.
- All other OITs may not be in responsible charge of a facility unless they hold an additional certification license that does not have an OIT designation.

See page 2 for more information



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Do I Have Training or Renewal Requirements After I Get My License?

- Yes, certified operators have continuing education and renewal requirements.



Continuing Education and Renewal Requirements

- [401 KAR 11:050](#) requires wastewater treatment operators to obtain cabinet-approved continuing education hours prior to applying for renewal. A Renewal Fact Sheet for reference can be found on the program's [website](#).
- Class I OIT Wastewater Treatment operators are required to earn 12 hours of continuing education in order to renew their license.
- Training hours shall expire two (2) years from the date earned.
- The schedule of training events is located on the program's [website](#).
- Wastewater certifications shall be issued with a common expiration date of June 30 of odd-numbered years and shall remain valid until that date, unless suspended, revoked or replaced by a higher certification certificate before that date.
- If certified wastewater OIT operators fail to renew their certificate, the certificate shall terminate.
- Certified operators with expired certificates shall not be in responsible charge of an on-site wastewater treatment system.

certifying **Professionals**