

PROPOSED EQUIVALENCY STANDARD LANGUAGE

Amend Section 106876 of the Health and Safety Code, as follows:

106876. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

- (a) “Community water system” has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275.
- (b) “Local primacy agency” has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275.
- (c) “Nontransient noncommunity water system” has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275.
- (d) “Operates a water distribution system” means actions or decisions to control the quality or quantity of drinking water in a water distribution system and includes both of the following:
 - (1) Supervision of other persons operating a water distribution system.
 - (2) Any activity designated by the state board, in its regulations to implement this article, as an activity that may only be performed by a person with a water distribution operator certificate.
- (e) “Operates a water treatment plant” means actions or decisions to control the performance of one or more drinking water treatment processes and includes both of the following:
 - (1) Supervision of other persons operating a water treatment plant.
 - (2) Any activity designated by the state board, in its regulations to implement this article, as an activity that may only be performed by a person with a water treatment operator certificate.
- (f) “Wastewater certificate” has the same meaning as defined in Section 13625 of the Water Code.
- (g) “Wastewater treatment plant” has the same meaning as defined in Section 13625 of the Water Code.
- (h) “Water distribution operator certificate” means a certificate of competency issued by the state board stating that a person has met the requirements to be certified to operate a water distribution system for a specified grade level.
- (i) “Water distribution system” has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275.
- (j) “Water recycling treatment plant” has the same meaning as defined in Section 13625 of the Water Code.

(k) “Water treatment operator certificate” means a certificate of competency issued by the state board stating that a person has met the requirements to be certified to operate a water treatment plant for a specific classification and grade level.

(l) “Water treatment plant” has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275.

(m) “Water treatment process” means a process that improves the physical, chemical, biological, or radiological quality of water in order to render the water acceptable for use as drinking water and includes all of the following:

- (1) Aeration.
- (2) Blending.
- (3) Chemical addition.
- (4) Contaminant removal.
- (5) Conventional treatment.
- (6) Demineralization.
- (7) Disinfection.
- (8) Filtration.
- (9) Fluoridation.
- (10) Ion exchange.
- (11) pH adjustment.
- (12) Pre- and post-treatment.
- (13) Reverse osmosis.

(n) “Advanced water treatment process” means a water or wastewater treatment process that includes any of the following:

- (1) Membrane filtration
- (2) Membrane desalination
- (3) Biological filtration
- (4) Adsorption or ion exchange
- (5) Finished water chemical stabilization
- (6) Iron and manganese removal
- (7) Advanced oxidation processes for pathogen or chemical control
- (8) Membrane bioreactor
- (9) Other treatment processes as defined by the state board

Add Section 106910.5 to the Health and Safety Code, as follows:

106910.5. The legislature finds and declares:

(a) Water and wastewater treatment and operations is a well-established industry with an aging workforce.

(b) To encourage water operator advancement and cross-training and to attract skilled workers to the water and wastewater industry fields, California operator certification requirements should recognize a broad range of experience and qualifications which provide the needed skill sets, while ensuring high standards for water and wastewater operators.

(c) Workers in the water and wastewater industry process water from a variety of sources to make it safe for drinking or to be returned to the environment.

(d) When wastewater is reused for beneficial use, ensuring protection of public health is of highest importance.

(e) Operations of advanced water treatment facilities require similar skill sets for both direct production of domestic water supplies and treatment of wastewater. Operations of recycled water distribution systems and potable distribution systems require similar skill sets.

(f) To attract employees with the necessary technical skills to the water and wastewater industries, the state board should expand the allowable experience to qualify operators to obtain water and wastewater certification.

Add Section 106911 to the Health and Safety Code, as follows:

106911. (a) When applying for certification by the state board as a water treatment operator, distribution system operator, or wastewater operator, operators of complex industrial facilities, including members of the military and military service veterans shall be credited with full equivalent experience and education for work and tasks performed.

(b) Experience credit includes work during service in the military, that is applicable to work performed by a certified operator in California. Applicable work may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Operation of similar water treatment processes
- (2) Operation and management of SCADA systems and automation
- (3) Troubleshooting equipment failures
- (4) Management of water quality
- (5) Operation and maintenance of equipment such as of pumps, motors, compressors, chemical feed systems, valves, actuators, meters
- (6) Calibration of on-line analyzers

(c) Education credit translated to the equivalent college semester unit and/or the continuing education units and/or education points will be given for military veterans who obtained and served in the following military occupational specialties (MOS):

- (1) United States Army MOS: 92W Water Treatment Specialist
- (2) United States Navy Rating: Utilitiesman
- (3) United States Marines MOS: 1171 Water Support Technician

(4) United States Coast Guard Ratings: Damage Controlman, Machinery Technician, Marine Science Technician

(5) United States Air Force Specialty Code: 3E4X1 – Water and Fuel Systems Maintenance

Add Section 106912 to the Health and Safety Code, as follows:

106912. For purposes of water treatment operator certification experience, a treatment plant using advanced water treatment processes, which treats water of wastewater origin for purposes of water reuse, shall be considered to provide equivalent experience to working at a water treatment plant at the levels indicated below:

(a) A treatment plant which uses advanced treatment processes for non-potable reuse shall be considered at least equivalent to a T3 plant.

(b) A treatment plant which uses advanced treatment processes for potable reuse through groundwater recharge, reservoir augmentation, or augmentation of raw water supplies shall be considered at least equivalent to a T4 plant.

(c) A treatment plant which uses advanced treatment processes for potable reuse through augmentation of treated water supplies shall be considered equivalent to a T5 plant.

Add Section 106913 to the Health and Safety Code, as follows:

106913. For purposes of water distribution operator certification experience, operation of a recycled water distribution system shall be considered to provide equivalent experience to operating a potable distribution system.

Add Section 106914 to the Health and Safety Code, as follows:

106914. For any of the experience requirements for certification as a T3 or D3 operator, a treatment or distribution operator may substitute:

(a) Day to day experience gained working with lead responsibility for water quality related projects or research.

(b) Day to day experience in industrial facilities including military facilities with responsibility for operations of similar treatment process technologies.

(c) Registration as a professional engineer in California in civil engineering or chemical engineering.