

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CERTIFICATION OF WATER AND
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS AND LABORATORY ANALYSTS
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 750-3 CLASSIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS,
BOARD RULE 750-3-.04 REQUIREMENTS
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Rule 750-3-.04 Requirements

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Board Rule 750-3-.04 Requirements (herein after "proposed rule").

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 3920 Arkwright Rd., Suite 195, Macon, GA 31210. The documents will also be available for review on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/Georgia-board-examiners-certification-water-wastewater-treatment-plant-operators-and-laboratory. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule at a public hearing to be held at **10:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 21, 2026**, to be held via video teleconference. Please see Board's website for information on how to join the meeting.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Brad Coman, Executive Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, 3920 Arkwright Rd., Suite 195, Macon, GA 31210.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on June 17, 2026. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of the proposed rule does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-51-7. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-51-7 to adopt or implement differing actions for

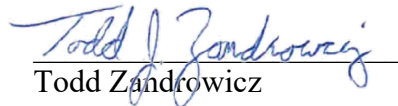
businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of the proposed rule will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the profession.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts has the authority to adopt the proposed rule pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. § 43-1-25, 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1, 43-51-7.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404)-424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 21st day of September, 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Todd J. Zandrowicz", is written over a horizontal line.

Todd Zandrowicz
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 09.21.26

**SYNOPSIS TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
CERTIFICATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS
AND LABORATORY ANALYSTS
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 750-3 CLASSIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS,
BOARD RULE 750-3-.04 REQUIREMENTS**

Purpose/Main Feature: The purpose of the proposed amendment to Rule 750-3-.04 is to update the requirements for applicants for certification to require that all applicants for certification be required to obtain the requisite experience in the field before applying for certification and being made eligible to sit for the exam. This does not change the training, education, or experience requirements, but would allow the Board to enforce that those requirements must be met before the individual may sit for the exam. Individuals applying for certification as a Public Water Supply System Operator Class IV, III or IIIG, Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator Class IV or III, Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator, Water Laboratory Analyst, Wastewater Laboratory Analyst, Water Distribution System Operator, and Wastewater Collection System Operator are currently able to take the examination without having to complete the experience requirement, resulting in the overall examination results not accurately reflecting the examination's performance. The Board has considered multiple variations of these proposed amendments and has determined this to be the most succinct wording while adhering to requirements in the statute and the least restrictive way to accomplish the Board's goals.

Rule 750-3-.04 Requirements

For certification in a particular class or category, an applicant must meet the following:

- (a) Education. Applicants must have earned a minimum of a high school diploma or GED certificate and must provide proof of education when submitting the application for certification to the Board.
- (b) Course(s). Applicants must have completed Board-approved course(s) prior to being made eligible to sit for the examination and must provide proof of such when submitting their application for certification to the Board, unless otherwise noted in this rule. The Board may evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, post-secondary education to determine satisfaction of the course requirements. The course requirements are as follows:
 - 1. Public Water Supply System Operator
 - Class IV - 6-hour basic water operator course
 - Class III - 40-hour basic water operator course
 - Class IIIG - 40-hour basic groundwater operator course
 - Class II - 48 hours of advanced water operator courses
 - Class I - No additional courses
 - 2. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator
 - Class IV - 6-hour basic waste stabilization pond operator course

Class III - 40-hour basic wastewater operator course

Class II - 48 hours of advanced wastewater operator courses

Class I - No additional courses

3. Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator - 27-hour industrial wastewater operator course
 4. Water Laboratory Analyst - 27-hour basic water laboratory course or, a minimum of an Associate Degree in Biology or Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry
 5. Wastewater Laboratory Analyst - 27-hour basic wastewater laboratory course or, a minimum of an Associate Degree in Biology or Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry.
 6. Water Distribution System Operator - 27-hour water distribution course
 7. Wastewater Collection System Operator - 27-hour wastewater collection course
- (c) Experience. Required experience for certification is dependent upon the applicant's education, as follows:

1. Public Water Supply System Operator or Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator

- (i) High School Diploma, GED

Class IV - 1 month of experience; Class III - 3 months of experience;

Class IIIG - 3 months of experience; Class II - 24 months of experience;

Class I - 36 months of experience

- (ii) Accredited Associate Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry

Class IV - 1 month of experience; Class III - 3 months of experience;

Class IIIG - 3 months of experience; Class II - 18 months of experience;

Class I - 30 months of experience

- (iii) Accredited Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry, or a current Class I certificate in another category

Class IV - 1 month of experience; Class III - 3 months of experience;

Class IIIG - 3 months of experience; Class II - 12 months of experience;

Class I - 24 months of experience

2. Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator or Water or Wastewater Laboratory Analyst or Wastewater Collection System Operator or Water Distribution System Operator
 - (i) High School Diploma, GED, Accredited Associate Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, Accredited Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry - 3 months experience required

(d) Examination.

1. An applicant must pass a written examination in order to receive a certification.
2. Applicants must apply for a certification to be made eligible to sit for the certification examination.
3. A designated agent of the Board may administer the examinations. Examination shall be offered at least six (6) times annually.
4. The Board, through its designated agent, will provide reasonable accommodations to a qualified applicant with a disability in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The request for an accommodation by an individual with a disability must be in writing to the designated agent of the Board prior to the application deadline, along with appropriate documents, as indicated in the Request for Disability Accommodation Guidelines.

(e) Current Certification. Applicants must hold the following certificates before taking an examination for the next level of certification:

1. Public Water Supply System Operator
 - (i) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class IV
 - (ii) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class III or IIIG
 - (iii) Must hold Class III or Class IIIG prior to taking examination for Class II
 - (iv) Must hold Class II prior to taking examination for Class I
2. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator
 - (i) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class IV
 - (ii) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class III
 - (iii) Must hold Class III prior to taking examination for Class II
 - (iv) Must hold Class II prior to taking examination for Class I
3. Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator or Water or Wastewater Laboratory Analyst or Wastewater Collection System Operator or Water Distribution System Operator

- (i) No previous certification needed to take examination
- (f) For those applicants who have a high school diploma or GED certificate, the Board may consider other factors, including post-secondary education and other training and experience, to determine satisfaction of the experience requirements. Applicants for the following certifications may take the examination before the experience requirement is met, but shall not apply for the certifications until completing the requisite experience in the actual system operation:
- ~~1. Public Water Supply System Operator Class IV;~~
 - ~~2. Public Water Supply System Operator Class III or IIIG;~~
 - ~~3. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator Class IV;~~
 - ~~4. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator Class III;~~
 - ~~5. Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator;~~
 - ~~6. Water Laboratory Analyst;~~
 - ~~7. Wastewater Laboratory Analyst;~~
 - ~~8. Water Distribution System Operator;~~
 - ~~9. Wastewater Collection System Operator.~~
- (g) ~~Applicants for the following certifications must have completed experience in the actual system operation prior to being made eligible to sit for the certification examination:~~
- ~~1. Public Water Supply System Operator Class II;~~
 - ~~2. Public Water Supply System Operator Class I;~~
 - ~~3. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator Class II;~~
 - ~~4. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator Class I.~~
- (h) ~~For those applicants who have a high school diploma or GED certificate, the Board may consider other factors, including post-secondary education and other training and experience, to determine satisfaction of the experience requirements.~~

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. § 43-1-25, 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1 and 43-51-7.

RULES
OF
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CERTIFICATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS AND LABORATORY ANALYSTS

CHAPTER 750-3

CLASSIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

750-3-.04 Requirements

Rule 750-3-.04 Requirements

For certification in a particular class or category, an applicant must meet the following:

- (a) Education. Applicants must have earned a minimum of a high school diploma or GED certificate and must provide proof of education when submitting the application for certification to the Board.
- (b) Course(s). Applicants must have completed Board-approved course(s) prior to being made eligible to sit for the examination and must provide proof of such when submitting their application for certification to the Board, unless otherwise noted in this rule. The Board may evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, post-secondary education to determine satisfaction of the course requirements. The course requirements are as follows:

- 1. Public Water Supply System Operator

- Class IV - 6-hour basic water operator course

- Class III - 40-hour basic water operator course

- Class IIIG - 40-hour basic groundwater operator course

- Class II - 48 hours of advanced water operator courses

- Class I - No additional courses

- 2. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator

- Class IV - 6-hour basic waste stabilization pond operator course

- Class III - 40-hour basic wastewater operator course

- Class II - 48 hours of advanced wastewater operator courses

- Class I - No additional courses

3. Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator - 27-hour industrial wastewater operator course
 4. Water Laboratory Analyst - 27-hour basic water laboratory course or, a minimum of an Associate Degree in Biology or Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry
 5. Wastewater Laboratory Analyst - 27-hour basic wastewater laboratory course or, a minimum of an Associate Degree in Biology or Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry.
 6. Water Distribution System Operator - 27-hour water distribution course
 7. Wastewater Collection System Operator - 27-hour wastewater collection course
- (c) Experience. Required experience for certification is dependent upon the applicant's education, as follows:
1. Public Water Supply System Operator or Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator
 - (i) High School Diploma, GED
 Class IV - 1 month of experience; Class III - 3 months of experience;
 Class IIIG - 3 months of experience; Class II - 24 months of experience;
 Class I - 36 months of experience
 - (ii) Accredited Associate Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry
 Class IV - 1 month of experience; Class III - 3 months of experience;
 Class IIIG - 3 months of experience; Class II - 18 months of experience;
 Class I - 30 months of experience
 - (iii) Accredited Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry, or a current Class I certificate in another category
 Class IV - 1 month of experience; Class III - 3 months of experience;
 Class IIIG - 3 months of experience; Class II - 12 months of experience;
 Class I - 24 months of experience
 2. Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator or Water or Wastewater Laboratory Analyst or Wastewater Collection System Operator or Water Distribution System Operator

- (i) High School Diploma, GED, Accredited Associate Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or, at the Board's discretion, Accredited Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, Chemistry, or other degrees containing sufficient courses in biology or chemistry - 3 months experience required

(d) Examination.

1. An applicant must pass a written examination in order to receive a certification.
2. Applicants must apply for a certification to be made eligible to sit for the certification examination.
3. A designated agent of the Board may administer the examinations. Examination shall be offered at least six (6) times annually.
4. The Board, through its designated agent, will provide reasonable accommodations to a qualified applicant with a disability in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The request for an accommodation by an individual with a disability must be in writing to the designated agent of the Board prior to the application deadline, along with appropriate documents, as indicated in the Request for Disability Accommodation Guidelines.

(e) Current Certification. Applicants must hold the following certificates before taking an examination for the next level of certification:

1. Public Water Supply System Operator
 - (i) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class IV
 - (ii) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class III or IIIG
 - (iii) Must hold Class III or Class IIIG prior to taking examination for Class II
 - (iv) Must hold Class II prior to taking examination for Class I
2. Biological Wastewater Treatment System Operator
 - (i) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class IV
 - (ii) No previous certification needed to take examination for Class III
 - (iii) Must hold Class III prior to taking examination for Class II
 - (iv) Must hold Class II prior to taking examination for Class I
3. Industrial Wastewater Treatment System Operator or Water or Wastewater Laboratory Analyst or Wastewater Collection System Operator or Water Distribution System Operator
 - (i) No previous certification needed to take examination

- (f) For those applicants who have a high school diploma or GED certificate, the Board may consider other factors, including post-secondary education and other training and experience, to determine satisfaction of the experience requirements.

AUTHORITY: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-51-5, 43-51-6, 43-51-6.1 and 43-51-7.