

Take Your Test on a Computer Starting January 2009

Beginning January 2009, you'll be able to take your CWEA certification test on a computer.

Computer-based testing (CBT) will allow you to take your test any day you choose, including evenings and Saturdays. Test centers will provide a carefully controlled and comfortable testing environment that will allow you to take the test under peak performance conditions. After passing the exam and becoming

certified, you will be able to start working faster, and employers will be able to hire qualified wastewater professionals much sooner.

In the past six years, the test volume administered annually by CWEA has grown from about 900 to more than 1,800. As more of the workforce retires and demand for newly certified personnel increases, more pressure will be placed on the industry to develop a qualified pool of certified professionals and to get them on the job as quickly as possible. Computerized testing programs meet those needs better than traditional paper-and-pencil programs.

CBT will allow us to improve graphics, add photos and even video, to make test

content more realistic and familiar to test-takers. All of this will result in greater reliability of the tests to screen for competency, and minimize possible testing errors.

The CBT Transition Project

CWEA's main priority is to make the transition to CBT as smooth as possible for our certificate candidates and employers. Over the next 18 months we'll be working with our CBT vendor to provide you with online practice and pilot tests. We'll also be updating policies and procedures to match CBT's flexible scheduling.

Right now, volunteer subject matter experts (SMEs) are writing hundreds of new test items for our test question bank to allow year-round computerized testing. Test question writing workshops were held in February and March. The question writing teams have been doing a great job at producing new test questions.

Let us know what you think

Do you have concerns about taking a computerized test, how test scheduling will work, or anything else? Send any feedback or concern to cbt@cwea.org.

*Take your
test when
convenient for
YOU!*



In This Issue...

Training Conversions.....2-3

Submitting Contact Hours.....3

Moderator Training in May! 4



CWEA

The Certification Examiner
The quarterly newsletter for CWEA certificate holders and wastewater industry employers

We're on the web!
cwea.org/cert

Key Benefits of Computer-Based Testing:

- Take the test on your schedule—Flexible test scheduling throughout the year, 6 days a week, evenings
- Take it close to home or work—Increased number of test sites in California and the rest of the U.S.
- Get instant test results
- Receive official certification confirmation within 2 weeks of passing the test
- Advanced test performance statistics that improve the ability of the test to screen for competency

Documenting Training:

A CEU is worth ten times a CH, and is equal to a CEC, but is not equivalent to a PDH, which is the equivalent of a CH...what do you send to CWEA to renew that certificate?

Measuring Continuing Education: it can feel like you are swimming in a choppy sea of differing paperwork and units.

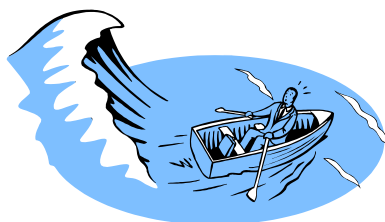
Throughout the year, many certificate holders prepare to submit contact hours for re-certification, and are not sure how many points/hours/units the sessions and classes they attended are worth, or what is accepted by each certifying agency.

Whether or not you hold multiple certifications, this can seem complicated. There are multiple training providers: The Water Environment Federation (WEF), Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) and the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) to name a few, and then there are the agencies that accept training, like the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB). However, knowing the basic measurement units and conversions and how they compare with one another can help you stay afloat in the sea of re-certification. The conversion chart below will hopefully help you to simplify your training and re-certifying paperwork.

CWEA accepts all units, as long as the course or training is relevant to your certificate.

Unit	Equivalents	Notes
1 CEU (Continuing Education Unit)	10 Clock Hours 10 Contact Hours 1 Continuing Education Credit 1 Educational Point	WEF issues CEUs for workshops only.
1 PDH (Professional Development Unit)	1 Clock Hour 1 Contact Hour	WEF issues PDHs only for engineering training and technical sessions.
1 CEC (Continuing Education Credit)	10 Clock Hours 10 Contact Hours 1 CEU	The CEC is issued by MWEA to meet specific regulations for certification and licensing programs in Michigan.
1 CH (Contact Hour)	1 Clock Hour 0.1 Continuing Education Units	WEF may award CHs for exhibit hall training and tours. CWEA awards 1 CH per 50 minutes of training.

1 contact hour (CH) = 60 minutes of training, based on IACET Guidelines
1 clock hour is equal to 60 minutes



Navigating the Waters

CWEA Certification

CWEA's certification program accepts all units, from college courses to technical sessions to seminars, as long as the training or instruction is relevant to the certification. We convert the units/hours/points into CHs (Contact Hours).

One contact hour is equal to fifty minutes of training or instruction relevant to your certificate.

For example, 15.75 PDHs earned at WEFTEC will yield 15.75 Contact Hours, and one CEU will yield 10 Contact Hours.



Worksheet is Optional

When you are due for re-certification, you will receive a Re-certification Requirement Worksheet with your renewal reminder. Remember, this worksheet is optional. If you submit the worksheet, you must also include your copies of certificates of completion. We cannot accept the worksheet alone.

You can also download the worksheet:

www.cwea.org/pdf/tcp/RecertReqOptionalWksht.pdf

For more info:

MWEA

Connie Underhill
Connie@mi-wea.org
 Or visit
www.mi-wea.org

WEF

Nancy Bauer
NBauer@wef.org
 or visit
www.weftec.org/Educational/CEUandPDHCredits

Wondering What CWEA Contact Hour Documentation is Required?

When you attend a training or seminar, be sure to ask your trainer/instructor how to obtain a Certificate or Letter of Completion. Either one must include:

- The name of the training organization
- The program title or brief description of vocations addressed
- Your name or name of the attendee who completed the program
- The number of Contact Hours earned
- The date of completion
- An official signature/stamp from the training organization or instructor's signature

Got Operator Certification?

There is currently no continuing education requirement for operators certified by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), but education may be required to qualify for certification. The SWRCB Office of Operator Certification measures education and training with the Educational Point, which is the equivalent of 10 hours of instruction, or 1 CEU. If a course is not directly related to wastewater operations it may only be awarded half credit.

For more information on the SWRCB operator qualifications and other Educational Point equivalencies contact Sarah Fong at 916-341-5672. or visit www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwphome/opcert



Certification & Training Calendar

April 17-20, 2007 CA-NV-AWWA Spring Conference, Las Vegas, NV

April 17-21, 2007 contact hours!
CWEA Annual Conference
Ontario, CA | www.cwea.org/training

April 30, 2007
Technical Certification Application Deadline for July 28, 2007
www.cwea.org/cert_howcert_apply.shtml

April 30, 2007 Contact Hours Final DUE DATE!
Fax to: 510-382-7810
Email to: icarino@cwea.org

Study Sessions for the July 2007 Test contact hours!

Sacramento, CA June 1, 2007
All vocations except Biosolids & Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Operator

Cerritos, CA July 18, 2007
Free study session for Environmental Compliance Inspector only

San Diego, CA July 24 & 25, 2007
Collection System Maintenance only

For more information go to:
www.cwea.org/cert_howcert_preparing_info.shtml

CWEA Technical Certification Program

Executive Committee

Chair (2006-2007)
Ken Holmes
Holmes International

Vice Chair
Michael Creel
CSDLAC

Vice Chair II
Jody Allen
South Placer MUD

Southern CA Liaison
Simon Watson
Orange County SD

Northern CA Liaison
Lenny Rather
Oro Loma SD

Staff

Director of Certification
Chris Lundeen, CAE
clundeen@cwea.org
510-382-7800 x104

Certification Test Supervisor
Nicole Schlosser
nschlosser@cwea.org
510-382-7800 x 106

Certification Specialist
Leslie Cariño
icarino@cwea.org
510-382-7800 x107

Fax: 510-382-7810
Web: cwea.org/cert

Certification Study Session Moderator Training

May 4 and 11

CWEA needs trained moderators to lead our certification study sessions. If you have led a study session, are planning to lead a study session, or are just thinking about it, you should attend this free training event.

The May 4 workshop will be held in Mather and the May 11 workshop will take place in San Diego.

Each one-day workshop, conducted by faculty from Cal State Sacramento and the Office of Water Programs will train moderators to prepare certification candidates to pass their exams and to sharpen their problem solving skills in study sessions.

For more info or to sign up, contact Chris Lundeen at clundeen@cwea.org or 510-382-7800 x104.



California Water Environment Association
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 525
Oakland, CA 94621-1935

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CA 946
PERMIT #1483