

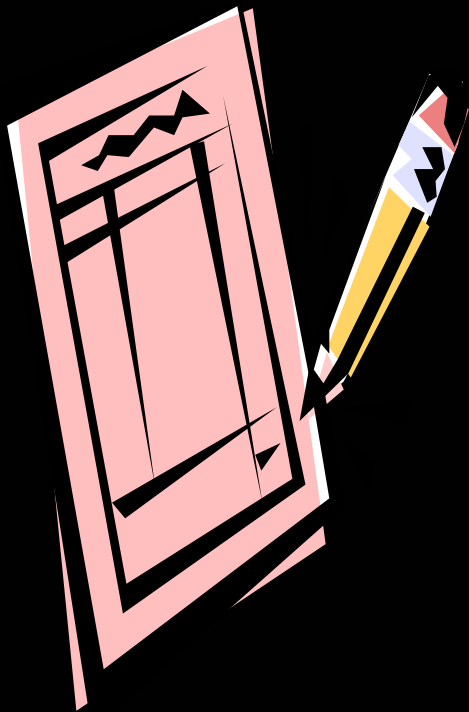


Environmental Compliance Inspector Certification

2007-2008

Candidate

Handbook



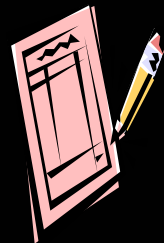
This booklet contains...

- Subject matter for the Environmental Compliance Inspector tests
- Education and experience requirements
- Selected study references
- Certification policies
- Frequently Asked Questions

Environmental Compliance Inspector

2007-2008

Candidate Handbook



This handbook contains information about the Environmental Compliance Inspector certification program. Please read this entire handbook to become familiar with certification procedures and policies. As a certificate applicant, you are responsible for knowing the contents of this handbook. If you have any questions please contact your Local Section Chair (listed in the TCP Application) or the CWEA office at 510-382-7800.

Statement of Non-Discrimination Policy

CWEA does not discriminate among applicants on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or marital status.

Copyright © 2007 by the **California
Water Environment Association**

California Water Environment
Association
Technical Certification Program
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94621

phone: 510-382-7800
fax: 510-382-7810
web: www.cwea.org

Contents

Introduction	2
The California Water Environment Association	2
The Technical Certification Program	2
Important Information	2
The Certification Process	2
Code of Ethics	2
Test Administration and Admission	2
Test Design and Format	3
Test Scoring	3
Test Rescheduling and Cancellation	3
Item Appeals	3
Test Result Notification	3
Issue of Certificate/Wallet Cards	3
Renewal of Certification	3
Re-certification	4
Accommodations For Those With Physical or Learning Disabilities	4
Grade I Environmental Compliance Inspector	5
Eligibility Criteria for Taking the Test	5
Essential Duties	5
Complexity of Test Questions	5
Test Content Areas	6
Grade II Environmental Compliance Inspector	7
Eligibility Criteria for Taking the Test	7
Qualifying With Your Education	7
Essential Duties	7
Complexity of Test Questions	8
Test Content Areas	8
Grade III Environmental Compliance Inspector	10
Eligibility Criteria for Taking the Test	10
Qualifying With Your Education	10
Essential Duties	10
Complexity of Test Questions	11
Test Content Areas	11
Grade IV Environmental Compliance Inspector	13
Eligibility Criteria for Taking the Test	13
Qualifying With Your Education	13
Essential Duties	13
Complexity of Test Questions	14
Test Content Areas	14
SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS	14
SELECTED REFERENCES	17
PREPARING FOR YOUR TEST	18
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	18



Introduction

The California Water Environment Association

CWEA's mission is to enhance the education and effectiveness of California wastewater professionals through training, certification, dissemination of technical information, and promotion of sound policies to benefit society through protection and enhancement of the water environment.

CWEA is a California Nonprofit Corporation and is a Member Association of the Water Environment Federation and a member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance.

The Technical Certification Program

The Technical Certification Program (TCP) was created to offer multilevel technical certification for individuals employed in the water quality field. Tests are written by vocational specialists and administered throughout the year in six different disciplines: Collection System Maintenance, Environmental Compliance Inspection, Laboratory Analyst, Plant Maintenance (Electrical/Instrumentation and Mechanical Technologist), Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Operator, and Biosolids Land Application Management.

CWEA first offered a certification program for operators of wastewater treatment plants in 1937. The program was administered by CWEA until 1973 when the State of California assumed responsibility for the program. During those 36 years, CWEA awarded 3915 operator certificates.

In 1975 the first committees were formed to establish a new voluntary certification program for water quality professionals specializing in disciplines other than plant operation. Eventually, the Voluntary Certification Program (VCP) emerged with specialized certificate programs for Collection System Maintenance, Plant Maintenance, Environmental Compliance Inspection, and Laboratory Analyst. The first of the new certifications were given in April of 1976. In the 1980s two more disciplines were added: Electrical/Instrumentation, and Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Operator.

Today CWEA offers certification in six different vocational programs with a total of 23 different certifications. About 2,000 certification applications are processed every year and over 5,500 certificates are currently held by individuals in California, Michigan, Hawaii, Missouri and Alaska.

Environmental Compliance Inspector and Industrial Waste Inspector Designations

The title of the Industrial Waste Inspector program has been changed to Environmental Compliance Inspector to more accurately reflect typical environmental compliance inspection duties and responsibilities. The two designations are equivalent and can be interchanged within the context of this handbook.

Important Information

The Certification Process

To become certified, **all applicants** must complete the Application For Technical Certification, pay the application fee, have appropriate experience and education, and pass the computer-based test. Application instructions and fee schedules are listed on the application. After applications are received at the CWEA office applicant information is compiled in the certification database. Acceptance letters are then mailed to all applicants. The experience and education given on the application is then reviewed by CWEA staff. If the application is approved, then the applicant will receive an acceptance letter. If the application is rejected, the applicant will be notified and may be asked to supply more information if warranted. After completing the test applicants are sent official test results. Those who pass the exam will then be mailed certificates and wallet cards.

Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics is intended to reflect the standards and behavior that California Water Environment Association certificate holders and applicants expect of each other as they perform their work protecting public health and the environment and that reaffirm the value of holding a CWEA certificate. The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to ensure public confidence in the integrity and service of professional water quality workers while performing their duties.

All California Water Environment Association certificate holders and applicants are expected to meet the following standards of professional conduct and ethics:

1. To protect public health, themselves, their co-workers, property, and the environment by performing the Essential Duties of the CWEA certified vocation safely and effectively, and complying with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.
2. To represent themselves truthfully and honestly throughout the entire certification process.
3. To adhere to all test site rules and make no attempt to complete the test dishonestly or to assist any other person in doing so.
4. To refrain from activities that may jeopardize the integrity of the Technical Certification Program.

Test Administration And Admission

Testing Dates and Sites: Tests are given throughout the year. Applicants who are eligible for the test will receive an acceptance letter and instructions on how to schedule for their exam. CWEA also provides reasonable accommodations for those with physical or learning disabilities (See following page: "Accommodations For Those With Physical or Learning Disabilities").



Test Site Admission: Certificate candidates are required to show at least one valid government issued photo identification (State driver's license or ID, or passport). Only after positive identification has been made by the testing proctor may a candidate begin the exam. Candidates are do not require to show their acceptance letters to enter the test site.

Test Security: Beginning January 2009, all exams will be computer-based format. No reference material, laptop computers or cameras are allowed in the test site. Candidates will have access to an onscreen calculator, however, examinees are welcome to bring pre-approved calculator (visit www.cwea.org/cert). Candidates are not allowed to take any notes from the test site. Candidates who violate test site rules may be asked to leave the site and may be disqualified from that test. All violations of test security will be investigated by CWEA and appropriate action will be taken. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Test Design And Format

Test Design: All certification tests are designed to test knowledge and abilities required to perform *Essential Duties* with minimal acceptable competence.

The *Essential Duties* and *Test Content Areas* for each certification were determined by a job analysis and *meta-analysis* of job specifications by two independent psychometric consulting firms. The studies gathered data from onsite visits of over 31 water and wastewater agencies, interviews with 110 water and wastewater professionals, and analysis of more than 300 job specifications. All research was conducted under the guidance of the Technical Certification Program Committee, vocational sub-committees, and CWEA staff. All test questions are designed to measure at least one area of knowledge or ability that is required to perform an essential duty.

Test Delivery Mechanism: All tests are computer-based format and are written in English language only.

Test Format: All tests are given in the multiple choice format. The multiple choice format is considered the most effective for use in standardized tests. This objective format allows a greater coverage of content for a given amount of testing time and improves competency measurement reliability. Multiple choice questions range in complexity from simple recall of knowledge to the synthesis and evaluation of the subject matter.

Test Scoring

Scoring Method: All tests are mechanically scored by CWEA. The overall test score will determine if you pass or fail the test. Generally, the minimum score required to pass the test is 75% (this passing score may be adjusted downward depending on the difficulty level of each particular test). The minimum passing score is determined by the modified Angoff Method. When taking your test it is recommended that you try your best to score as high as possible. Do not try to target the minimum passing score.

How Passing Scores Are Set: Each time a certification test is given the questions are changed resulting in a different test form. Since each form has different questions the difficulty level of the test may not be the same from form to form. The passing score is developed as an overall estimate of minimal acceptable competence in the Test Content Areas by subject matter and testing experts. Passing scores are determined by an overall passing score, not by performance on individual Test Subject Areas, and are independent of other candidates' scores. Partial credit will not be awarded for any test item answered incorrectly.

Test Rescheduling and Cancellation

Instructions

To reschedule your application you must submit a written request (a letter stating that you wish to postpone), with a \$40 administrative fee. You may only postpone your application once without a fee. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If you already have a scheduled exam with our testing administrator, Pearson Vue, you must contact them 24 hours in advanced to avoid losing your exam fee.

To cancel your application you must submit a written request (a letter stating you wish to cancel your application) to CWEA. The written request along with a \$40 administrative fee must be received at the CWEA office no later than 2 weeks after the approved testing window. Full refunds, less a \$40 administrative fee, will be made within 4 weeks after the scheduled date. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Item Appeals

Candidates who wish to appeal a specific test item must do so during the test by completing the Candidate Feedback Review Screen. Candidate feedbacks will be evaluated and appropriate adjustments will be made to the test content. Candidates submitting feedbacks will not be contacted in regards to the appeal.

Test Result Notification

Exam results are routinely mailed to certificate candidates approximately 4 weeks after the exam date. No results are given by phone, via fax or email. All results are confidential and are only released to the certificate candidate. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Issue of Certificate/Wallet Card

Certificates and wallet cards will be issued to all candidates who pass the exam. Certificates and wallet cards are mailed about two to three weeks after result notifications have been mailed.

Renewal of Certification

All certificates must be renewed annually. The first renewal is due one year from the last day of the month in which the certification exam was held. Certificate renewals less than one year past due are subject to the renewal fee plus a penalty fee of 100 percent of the renewal fee. Certificates more than one year past due will need to retest to regain certification. Renewal notices are mailed to certificate holders two months before the due date. It is the responsibility of the



Certificate holder to ensure that his or her certificate(s) remains valid.

Re-Certification

CWEA Certificate holders shall be required to renew certificates annually, and shall be required to provide evidence of completion of 12 contact hours of continuing education requirements every two years. For more information, visit CWEA's website: www.cwea.org.

Accommodations For Those With Physical or Learning Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special accommodations will be provided for those individuals who provide CWEA with a physician's certificate, or its equivalent, documenting a physical or psychological disability that may affect the individual's ability to successfully complete the certification examination. Written requests for special accommodations must be made no later than 3 weeks before the examination date.



Grade I Environmental Compliance Inspector

Environmental Compliance Inspector Grade I Certification is designed to demonstrate competency at the entry and basic working level. More specifically, Grade I certification implies competence in the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties* of an entry level Environmental Compliance Inspector.

Eligibility Criteria For Taking The Test

There are no experience or education requirements for Grade I certification. Completing the Application for Technical Certification, paying the appropriate application fee, and passing the written examination are the only requirements. It is, however, *recommended* that Grade I candidates have at least one year of experience working as an Environmental Compliance Inspector or Technician performing the *Essential Duties* listed below. Many candidates without the recommended experience have difficulty successfully completing the written test.

Essential Duties Of The Grade I Environmental Compliance Inspector

Individuals certified as Grade I Environmental Compliance Inspectors are expected to possess acceptable competency when performing the tasks that are necessary for entry level environmental compliance inspectors. These necessary tasks are known as the *Essential Duties*. The certification test measures knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties*.

Essential Duties for Grade I

1. Use of appropriate sampling locations and procedures; collection of representative samples in accordance with the agency's quality assurance program of wastewater and water from industrial, commercial, residential, and institutional sources, various clarifiers or sumps, and storm sewers; completion of appropriate documentation, including chain of custody documentation; and performance of field tests or laboratory tests on samples collected
2. Observation and recording of field conditions, flow meter readings, pH, ORP, selective ion, explosivity, and other field test results
3. Use, clean, inspect, maintain and repair sampling equipment, meters, and test equipment
4. Inspection of pretreatment facilities and processes of industrial and commercial establishments for compliance with wastewater discharge ordinance and permit conditions
5. Inspection of industrial and commercial

6. businesses for compliance with storm runoff and pollution prevention requirements
6. Assist in call-outs and the investigation and tracing of the sources of illegal or nuisance waste discharges entering the stormwater or wastewater collection system
7. Collecting information for assessing fees from industrial and commercial establishments
8. Inspecting grease traps, interceptors, and clarifiers
9. Recording data and observations
10. Providing input and assistance in the preparation of a variety of manual and computerized written, oral, tabular, and graphic reports; updating filed inspection records; and tabulating, calculating and preparing data for sewer service charges
11. Supporting customer service activities; responding to questions of a limited variety and scope after receiving specific instruction; refer inquiries to appropriate level; interacting cooperatively with internal and external customers and providing feedback to appropriate staff
12. Learning pertinent information and developments in environmental compliance functional areas; assisting in the implementation of state, federal, or local requirements to support appropriate programs
13. Learning and observing proper safety precautions, rules, regulations, and practices; maintaining equipment, materials, and worksite in proper and safe condition in accordance with policies and procedures
14. Learning how wastewater is treated and how it can be impacted by industrial waste

Complexity Of Test Questions

At the Grade I level, certificate candidates are expected to have basic knowledge of the job and the ability to safely perform the *Essential Duties* listed above. Examinees will have to answer multiple choice questions that test knowledge, comprehension and application of the subject matter. The complexity of the questions will cover the ability to recall previously learned material, to understand the meaning of the subject matter, and to apply knowledge to new situations.



Test Content Areas

The following list is an outline of *Test Content Areas*. Each content area is a Knowledge, Skill, or Ability that is required to perform the *Essential Duties* listed above. Since all of the Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities are required to perform the *Essential Duties* they are all equally important in the demonstration of acceptable competency. Thus, all of the content areas listed below are equally weighted on the test.

Test Content Areas for Grade I**Knowledge of:**

- 101. Basic scientific principles (chemistry, biology, physics), with special emphasis on wastewater chemistry and chemistry encountered in industrial processes
- 102. Basic laboratory procedures, equipment and apparatus, with particular emphasis on analyses performed for industrial self-monitoring reports
- 103. Basic principles of sample collection
- 104. Basic principles of preservation and holding time
- 105. Chain of custody procedures and documentation
- 106. Basic math, including fractions, decimals, proportions, and metric measurements
- 107. Basic knowledge of pumps, mechanical equipment, flowmeters, alarm systems, chemical feed systems, etc.
- 108. Basic industrial processes (e.g. metal finishing, food processing, etc.)
- 109. Basic safety equipment and procedures associated with conducting inspections
- 110. Quality assurance terms and principles
- 111. Fundamentals of wastewater treatment processes
- 112. Industrial wastewater treatment processes
- 113. Effects of pollutants on sewage treatment processes
- 114. Personal protective equipment required to conduct inspections
- 115. Traffic control procedures for street work

Skill to:

- 116. Communicate effectively with representatives of commercial, industrial, institutional users, co-workers, and persons from other agencies and the public, in the English language
- 117. Maintain accurate and complete records

Ability to:

- 118. Observe and report accurately
- 119. Work with mechanical and electrical equipment
- 120. Safely follow basic laboratory principles and procedures (See KSA 101)
- 121. Learn rules, regulations and laws related to water and wastewater
- 122. Read gauges, meters, flow meters, and other recording instruments
- 123. Follow written and oral instructions
- 124. Follow safety practices, precautions, and methods
- 125. Collect representative samples
- 126. Preserve samples and observe holding times
- 127. Follow chain-of-custody procedures and documentation



Grade II Environmental Compliance Inspector

Environmental Compliance Inspector Grade II Certification is designed to demonstrate competency at the skilled or journey level. More specifically, Grade II certification implies competence in the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties* of a skilled Environmental Compliance Inspector.

Eligibility Criteria For Taking The Test

The basic requirement is four years of full-time work in environmental compliance inspection. You may also qualify by having two years of experience and holding an Environmental Compliance Inspector Grade I certificate for one year, **OR** having two years of full-time experience and holding an Associate's degree in a related field, **OR** having one year of full-time experience and holding a Bachelor's, or higher, degree in a related field.

Eligibility criteria are summarized in the table below. You may qualify by meeting either Education/Experience Combination **A**, **B**, **C**, or **D**. If you do not meet any of the combinations of experience and education, then you do not qualify for Grade II:

Combination	EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS	+	EXPERIENCE
A	None		4 full-time years in Environmental Compliance Inspection
B	Grade I Environmental Compliance Inspector Certificate for 1 year		2 full-time years in Environmental Compliance Inspection
C	AA/AS degree in a related field		2 full-time years in Environmental Compliance Inspection
D	Hold a BA/BS, or higher, degree in a related field		1 full-time year in Environmental Compliance Inspection

Qualifying With Your Education

Holding a college degree, or its equivalent, in a field related to your vocation will reduce the number of years required for your test (see the table above). Your degree must be in a field that is related to the certificate for which you are applying. If you are uncertain if your degree is related to your vocation you should still include your degree information in your application. The Technical Certification Program Committee will determine if your degree qualifies. If it does not, you will be accepted for the next highest grade level for which you qualify. Associate's and

Bachelor's degrees in technical fields are usually accepted. Degrees are evaluated on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of the application. College credit without a degree is not accepted unless it can be demonstrated that the credit is equivalent to a degree.

Essential Duties Of The Grade II Environmental Compliance Inspector

Individuals certified as Grade II Environmental Compliance Inspectors are expected to possess acceptable competency when performing the tasks that are necessary for skilled or journey level environmental compliance inspectors. These necessary tasks are known as the *Essential Duties*. The certification test measures knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties*.

Essential Duties for Grade II

1. Inspecting a variety of pretreatment systems, facilities, and processes of industrial, commercial, residential, and institutional establishments for compliance with federal, state, and local regulations and permit conditions related to pretreatment of industrial wastewater, storm runoff, and pollution prevention requirements
2. Reviewing and evaluating all but the most complex permit applications, self-monitoring reports, facility modifications, and pretreatment systems; issues permits following established practices, policies, procedures, internal guidelines, and models; performs calculations related to industrial discharge permitting, including calculation of production-based and alternative limits
3. Initiating appropriate enforcement action after identifying noncompliance with local, state or federal requirements; preparing and issuing written notices of requirement and violations of regulations; researching compliance history of facilities; participating in enforcement hearings; and monitoring follow-up action
4. Reviewing compliance monitoring reports, such as toxic organic management plans, spill prevention control and countermeasures, pollution prevention plans, baseline monitoring reports, 90-day reports, periodic reports of continued compliance, and self-monitoring reports and sample results for compliance with federal, state, and local requirements
5. Determining sampling locations and methods; collecting representative samples of water and wastewater from industrial, commercial, residential, institutional sources,



- and storm sewers; using appropriate containers and preservation methods; performing field or laboratory tests on samples collected; observing and recording field conditions, meter readings, field test results, and other data relevant to sampling conditions and completing documentation
6. Investigating and tracing sources of illegal or nuisance waste discharges; responding to call-outs; providing technical assistance and guidance; and observing, monitoring, and evaluating conditions and initiating appropriate responses
 7. Preparing manual and computerized written, oral, tabular and graphic reports and summarizing requirements and regulations
 8. Explaining environmental compliance regulations, requirements, and policies to business owners and operators, other government agencies and the general public
 9. Planning and participating in pollution prevention, including commercial business regulation, development of best management practices and public outreach
 10. Analyzing dischargers' activities and preparing data for sewer service charges and capacity fees; researching tenant occupancy uses, sewer service charge bills and classification; estimating landscape allowances and discharge volumes; determining and verifying wastewater strength classifications; verifying sewer service and/or capacity charges and information; reviewing and analyzing information for sewer service refunds, making recommendations and providing the supervisor and/or manager with documentation; and responding to inquiries concerning sewer service charges and capacity fees
 11. Responding to and initiating contact with system users; providing detailed information on a variety of topics in a clear, succinct manner using the appropriate approach and response for the situation; sharing technical and/or specialized information with appropriate staff, industrial users, and other public agencies; and providing feedback, observations, and analysis to appropriate staff
 12. Researching and keeping current on pertinent information and development in environmental compliance functional areas; analyzing and implementing state, federal or local requirements as necessary to maintain approved pretreatment, pollution prevention, and storm water runoff programs
 13. Recognizing and correcting unsafe conditions. Understanding safety regulations; implementing and recommending proper

safety protocols

Complexity Of Test Questions

At the Grade II level, certificate candidates are expected to have the knowledge, skill and ability to safely and effectively accomplish most of the *Essential Duties* listed above. Grade II candidates are also expected to be able to be familiar with the Grade I Test Content Areas. Examinees will have to answer multiple choice questions that test comprehension, application and analysis of the subject matter. The complexity of the questions will cover the ability: to basically understand the subject matter; to recall and apply principles, ideas, and theories; and to break down ideas and theories into their constituent parts.

Test Content Areas

The following list is an outline of Test Content Areas. Each content area is a knowledge, skill, or ability that is required to perform the *Essential Duties* listed above. Since all of the knowledge, skills, or abilities are required to perform the *Essential Duties* they are all equally important in the demonstration of acceptable competency. Thus, all of the content areas listed below are equally weighted on the test. Candidates should also be thoroughly familiar with the Grade I Environmental Compliance Inspector *Test Content Areas*.

Test Content Areas for Grade II

200. Knowledge, skill and ability identified on the Test Content Specifications for Industrial Waste Inspection/Environmental Compliance Grade I

Knowledge of:

201. Categorical standards
202. EPA pretreatment regulations and standards (40 CFR part 403)
203. Water quality regulations for storm water (40 CFR part 122)
204. Common monitoring technology including common sampling, and flow-measuring methods, equipment, apparatus and their uses
205. Principles and methods of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal
206. Safety methods, procedures, practices, and precautions related to conducting inspections, traffic control, and using appropriate personal protective equipment



- 207. Complex principles of chemistry with special emphasis on wastewater chemistry and chemistry encountered in industrial processes
- 208. Arithmetic including fractions, decimals, proportions, percentages, and logarithmic notation
- 209. Basic mechanical, hydraulic and environmental engineering principles and concepts
- 210. Pollution prevention principles and activities
- 211. Industrial processes
- 212. Industrial pretreatment technologies
- 213. Industrial activities that could impact storm water runoff
- 214. Collection of samples that could be used as evidence in legal proceedings
- 215. Preservation procedures for routine and non-routine samples
- 223. Inspect a variety of industrial waste generating processes
- 224. Inspect a variety of industrial waste water pretreatment processes
- 225. Inspect industrial effluent monitoring equipment including pH, ORP, flow meters, explosion meters, selective ion recorders, etc.

Skill to:

- 216. Prepare clear, concise, and accurate reports, memorandums and correspondence
- 217. Interact cooperatively and effectively with the public, industrial users, other agencies and staff personnel in conducting environmental compliance inspections
- 218. Communicate the objectives of a program to representatives of commercial, residential and industrial users, in the English language

Ability to:

- 219. Read, interpret, apply and explain complex procedures, rules, regulations, and law relating to water and wastewater
- 220. Interpret physical, chemical, microbiological and bacteriological tests on water and wastewater
- 221. Read and understand technical information relating to wastewater generation and disposal, including engineering drawings and schematics
- 222. Plan, organize and manage environmental compliance projects



Grade III Environmental Compliance Inspector

Environmental Compliance Inspector Grade III Certification is designed to demonstrate competency at the lead or advanced technical level. More specifically, Grade III certification implies competence in the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties* of a lead or advanced Environmental Compliance Inspector.

Eligibility Criteria For Taking The Test

The basic requirement is six years of full-time work in Environmental Compliance Inspection. You may also qualify by having four years of experience and holding an Environmental Compliance Inspector Grade II Certificate for two years, **OR** having four years of full-time experience and holding an Associate's degree in a related field, **OR** having three years of full-time experience and holding a Bachelor's, or higher, degree in a related field.

Eligibility criteria are summarized in the table below. You may qualify by meeting either Education/ Experience Combination **A**, **B**, **C**, or **D**. If you do not meet any of the combinations of experience and education, then you do not qualify for Grade III:

Combination	EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS	EXPERIENCE
A	None	6 full-time years in environmental compliance inspection
B	Hold Grade II Environmental Compliance Inspector certificate for 2 years	4 full-time years in environmental compliance inspection
C	Hold an Associate's degree in a related field	4 full-time years in environmental compliance inspection
D	Hold a BA/BS, or higher, degree in a related field	3 full-time years in environmental compliance inspection

Qualifying With Your Education

Holding a college degree, or its equivalent, in a field related to your vocation will reduce the number of years required for your test (see the table above). Your degree must be in a field that is related to the certificate for which you are applying. If you are uncertain if your degree is related to your vocation you should still include your degree information in your application. The Technical Certification Program Committee will determine if your degree qualifies. If it does not, you will be accepted for the next highest grade level for which you qualify. Associate's and

Bachelor's degrees in technical fields are usually accepted. Degrees are evaluated on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of the application. College credit without a degree is not accepted unless it can be demonstrated that the credit is equivalent to a degree.

Essential Duties Of The Grade III Environmental Compliance Inspector

Individuals certified as Grade III Environmental Compliance Inspectors are expected to possess acceptable competency when performing the tasks that are necessary for lead or advanced level environmental compliance inspectors. These necessary tasks are known as the *Essential Duties*. The certification test measures knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties*.

Essential Duties for Grade III

1. Reviewing and evaluating highly complex permit applications, discharge reports, facility modifications, and pretreatment systems; issuing permits, following established practices, policies, procedures, internal guidelines, and models; establishing models and procedures when appropriate; reporting findings to the appropriate authority; researching compliance history of facility; assessing possible effects of the proposed discharge on the treatment plant and collection system; and initiating appropriate follow-up activities
2. Explaining wastewater discharge permit conditions, and other environmental compliance regulations, requirements, and policies to system users, the general public and to other government agency staff
3. Evaluating compliance monitoring reports, such as toxic organic management plans, spill prevention control and countermeasures, baseline monitoring reports, 90-day reports, periodic reports of continued compliance, pollution-prevention plans, self-monitoring reports, and sample reports for compliance with local, state, and federal requirements
4. Supervising sampling and inspection of commercial and industrial facilities and discharges to determine processes and activities generating wastewater/storm water; evaluating data used in determining compliance with applicable standards and in establishing sewer service charges and capacity fees
5. Organizing, planning, supervising, and reviewing the activities and work of subordinate staff
6. Participating in employee selection;



- evaluating employee performance; developing and participating in employee development and training programs; developing and overseeing division performance standards and resolving employee relations matters
7. Supervising record keeping activities and participating in the preparation of a variety of periodic and special reports, including monthly operation reports; advises management of significant data or information related to the work of the division
 8. Assisting in the administration of a division's safety program; performs field inspections for safety conformance; conducting investigations of accidents/injuries
 9. Providing instruction and training to staff in the techniques of sampling and inspection, the application of laws, codes, ordinances and procedures governing implementation, enforcement of pretreatment regulations and other activities
 10. Supervising investigations and the enforcement activities related to illegal discharges
 11. Initiating appropriate enforcement action after identifying noncompliance with local, state, and federal requirements; preparation and issue of written notices of requirements and violations of agency regulations; facilitating and participating in enforcement hearings and monitors follow-up action
 12. Performing special studies requiring technical expertise and project-management skills, such as local limits, sampling and inspection program review, impact of discharge, regulations review, water reclamation, commercial business regulations, development of best-management practices, and public outreach projects
 13. Performing calculations required to complete the annual sewer-service charge, revenue, and compliance programs; performing calculations related to industrial discharge permitting, including calculation of production-based and alternative discharge limits, and capacity fees and assessment of storm water fees. Assisting in development of program budgets and fiscal reports
 14. Inspecting a variety of pretreatment systems, facilities and processes of industrial, commercial, residential, and institutional establishments for compliance with federal, state, and local regulations related to pretreatment, runoff, and pollution prevention; verifying user classification; and collecting data used in evaluating compliance with applicable standards and in establishing sewer service charges
 15. Investigating and tracing the source of illegal waste discharges entering the collection system; responding to and coordinating call-outs; providing technical assistance and guidance; observing, monitoring, and evaluating conditions and initiating appropriate responses
 16. Determining appropriate sampling methods and locations and performing field work as required
 17. Working with industries to identify and resolve discharge problems or serious violations of applicable permits, ordinances, and regulations; identifying noncompliance and initiating appropriate responses consistent with policies, procedures, practices, guidelines, and models
 18. Responding to and initiating oral and written contact with system users; providing detailed information on a variety of complex topics in a clear, succinct manner using the appropriate approach and response for the situation; providing internal and inter-agency coordination based on information from the field and analyzing and making recommendations on additional actions; sharing technical and/or specialized information with staff
 19. Preparing appropriate enforcement action and notices of violations and monitors follow-up action
 20. Representing the employer in meetings of regional task forces, committees and work groups

Complexity Of Test Questions

At the Grade III level, certificate candidates are expected to have the knowledge, skill and ability to safely and effectively accomplish and coordinate complex tasks as listed in the *Essential Duties* above. Grade III candidates are also expected to be familiar with the Grade I and II Environmental Compliance Inspector knowledge, skills and abilities. Examinees will have to answer multiple choice questions that test application, analysis and synthesis of the subject matter. The complexity of the questions will cover the ability to abstract in particular and concrete situations, to clarify and organize theories and ideas, and to put facts together to form new solutions.

Test Content Areas

The following list is an outline of Test Content Areas. Each content area is a Knowledge, Skill, or Ability that is required to perform the *Essential Duties* listed above. Since all of the Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities are required to perform the *Essential Duties* they are all equally important in the demonstration of acceptable competency. Thus, all of the content areas listed below are equally weighted on the test.



Candidates should also be thoroughly familiar with the Grade I and II Environmental Compliance Inspector *Test Content Areas*.

Test Content Areas Grade III

300. Knowledge, skill and ability identified on the Test Content Specifications for Industrial Waste Inspection/Environmental Compliance Grades I and II

Knowledge of:

- 301. Physical, chemical, microbiological, and bacteriological tests applied to water and wastewater
- 302. Principles and practices of scheduling
- 303. Pertinent safety practices and principles, including traffic control, use of personal protective equipment, chemical hazards, industrial and storm water
- 304. Environmental principles, practices and models related to wastewater control
- 305. Principles, practices and methods of industrial and municipal collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater
- 306. Federal, state and local rules, regulations and standards governing wastewater and water quality
- 307. Procedural requirements for conducting environmental investigations and studies
- 308. Principles of hydraulic, instrumentation, and water and wastewater treatment equipment
- 309. The most complex industrial processes
- 310. The most complex industrial pretreatment technologies
- 311. Storm water regulations and best management practices
- 312. Training techniques
- 313. Employee evaluation methods
- 314. Productivity measurement
- 315. Confined space entry procedures and regulations
- 316. Hazards from dangerous atmospheres.

Skill to:

- 317. Deal cooperatively and effectively with the public, industrial company officials, other agencies and staff employees
- 318. Prepare clear, complete, and accurate oral and written reports
- 319. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing to express the objectives of an environmental compliance program to system users, in the English language

Ability to:

- 320. Evaluate the work of others
- 321. Conduct training
- 322. Resolve employee relations matters effectively
- 323. Organize work, set priorities, and work on several assignments under time pressure and critical deadlines
- 324. Read and interpret complex regulations
- 325. Develop inspection procedures
- 326. Evaluate storm water best management practices
- 327. Evaluate industrial waste discharge equipment, checking for operation, calibration, and conformance legal requirements
- 328. Apply wastewater control principles and practices to the solution of difficult environmental problems
- 329. Conduct sanitary and environmental studies
- 330. Analyze complex environmental situations, data and/or reports and draw sound conclusions from which to base recommendations
- 331. Interpret a variety of physical, chemical, microbiological and bacteriological test data on water and wastewater
- 332. Organize a response to an emergency incident
- 333. Investigate accidents, write appropriate reports, and make recommendations



Grade IV Environmental Compliance Inspector

Environmental Compliance Inspector Grade IV Certification is designed to demonstrate competency at the program manager level. More specifically, Grade IV certification implies competence in the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties* of a management level Environmental Compliance inspector.

Eligibility Criteria For Taking The Test

The basic requirement is eight years of full-time work in Environmental Compliance Inspection. You may also qualify by having six years of experience and holding a Environmental Compliance Inspector Grade III Certificate for two years, **OR** having six years of full-time experience and holding an Associate's degree in a related field, **OR** having five years of full-time experience and holding a Bachelor's, or higher, degree in a related field. All Grade IV candidates must also demonstrate at least one year of experience supervising the work of others.

Eligibility criteria are summarized in the table below. You may qualify by meeting either Education/ Experience Combination **A**, **B**, **C**, or **D**. If you do not meet any of the combinations of experience and education, then you do not qualify for Grade IV:

Combination	EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS	+ EXPERIENCE
A	None	8 years in Environmental Compliance Inspection with one of those years supervising others
B	2 years holding Grade III Environmental Compliance Certificate	6 years in Environmental Compliance Inspection with one of those years supervising others
C	Hold an AA/AS, or higher, degree in a related field	6 years in Environmental Compliance Inspection with one of those years supervising others
D	Hold an Bachelor's, or higher, degree in a related field	5 years in Environmental Compliance Inspection with one of those years supervising others

Qualifying With Your Education

Holding a college degree, or its equivalent, in a field related to your vocation will reduce the number of years required for your test (see the table, left). Your degree must be in a field that is related to the certificate for which you are applying. If you are uncertain if your degree is related to your vocation you should still include your degree information in your application. The Technical Certification Program Committee will determine if your degree qualifies. If it does not, you will be accepted for the next highest grade level for which you qualify. Associate's and Bachelor's degrees in technical fields are usually accepted. Degrees are evaluated on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of the application. College credit without a degree is not accepted unless it can be demonstrated that the credit is equivalent to a degree.

Essential Duties Of The Grade IV Environmental Compliance Inspector

Individuals certified as Grade IV Environmental Compliance Inspectors are expected to possess acceptable competency when performing the tasks that are necessary for management level environmental compliance inspectors. These necessary tasks are known as the *Essential Duties*. The certification test measures knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform the *Essential Duties*.

Essential Duties for Grade IV

1. Establishing organizational controls to measure performance against approved objectives and ensuring proper implementation of divisional goals and objectives
2. Planning, organizing, directing, and reviewing the work of environmental compliance inspectors, technical, and office support staff, providing technical services to users with non-domestic waste and groundwater discharges; reviewing and approving waste discharge plans; meeting with users to ensure compliance with waste discharge ordinances and state and federal requirements; performing special studies and preparing reports on industrial waste and other discharges and managing enforcement actions
3. Recommending methods to control all wastewater entering the collection system.
4. Administering the division's safety program; performing field inspections for safety performance and directing investigations of injuries
5. Monitoring economic, environmental, political, social, and business developments



- which have a bearing on programs and services
6. Interpreting management policies for staff and ensuring compliance with management and administrative policies and procedures.
 7. Planning, developing, and participating in a variety of ongoing training programs related to the work
 8. Managing the overall implementation of new programs that are required by regulations to protect or improve water quality by controlling sources of water and waste
 9. Directing the activities of division supervisors
 10. Coordinating activities with other divisions, other agencies, and with outside organizations
 11. Directing and participating in the selection, training, review, and evaluation of division staff; encouraging professional growth; and investigating employee relations problems and implementing or recommending corrective actions
 12. Representing the agency in meetings with governmental and regulatory agencies, technical committees, private firms, professional and community groups, and the public; conferring with staff regarding division activities; providing information and technical advice to staff, local cities, other utilities, regulatory agencies, planning agencies and consultants
 13. Directing record keeping activities and preparation of variety of periodic and special reports; presenting data and other information related to the work of the division
 14. Developing and administering the annual budget and monitoring monthly expenditures
 15. Reviewing the work of consultants and administering various professional contracts
 16. Monitoring developments in the field of environmental compliance and recommending and initiating improved work methods and procedures

Complexity Of Test Questions

At the Grade IV level, certificate candidates are expected to have the knowledge, skill and ability to administer, coordinate and manage complex programs described in the *Essential Duties* above. Grade IV candidates are also expected to be familiar with the Grade I, II, and III Environmental Compliance Inspector knowledge, skills and abilities. Examinees will have to answer multiple choice questions that test analysis, synthesis and evaluation of the subject matter. The complexity of the questions will cover the ability to clarify and organize theories and ideas to put together facts to form new solutions and to make managerial level judgements.

Test Content Areas

The following list is an outline of *Test Content Areas*. Each content area is a Knowledge, Skill, or Ability that is required to perform the *Essential Duties* listed above. Since all of the Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities are required to perform the *Essential Duties* they are all equally important in the demonstration of acceptable competency. Thus, all of the content areas listed below are equally weighted on the test. Candidates should also be thoroughly familiar with the Grade I, II, and III Environmental Compliance Inspector *Test Content Areas*.

Test Content Areas for Grade IV

400. Knowledge, skill and ability identified on the Test Content Specifications for Industrial Waste Inspection/Environmental Compliance Inspector Grades I, II, and III

Knowledge of:

401. Industrial processes as they affect the operation of a water pollution control plant, wastewater collection system, or storm collection system, and its effects on the receiving waters
402. Safety rules, codes, principles and practices related to inspection, such as traffic control, chemical handling, confined space entry, and other physical hazards
403. Techniques of field inspection and laboratory work related to wastewater discharge from various sources
404. Applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations
405. Budgeting principles
406. Management principles
407. Methods of supervision
408. The function of related agencies

Skill to:

409. Prepare clear, concise, and complete reports and correspondence
410. Make effective oral reports and presentations
411. Deal effectively with employee relations
412. Deal effectively with budget administrative matters.



Sample Test Questions

The following sample test questions are provided to help you become familiar with the multiple choice format. These questions reflect only a sample of the subject matter covered at each grade level.

For each question, choose the single most correct answer. An answer key is given at the end of this section.

Grade I Environmental Compliance

1. What volume of spill containment capacity in gallons is needed for the following tanks if a 12-inch rainfall occurs during a 24-hour period on a connected 200-foot by 200-foot pad?

TANK I: Square, 6 ft. wide, 6 ft. long, and 6 ft. high
TANK II: Rectangular, 4 ft. wide, 20 ft. long, and 3 ft. high.
TANK III: Cylindrical, 8 ft. in diameter and 9 ft. high

a. 3,016,138 gallons
b. 3,597,192 gallons
c. 305,992 gallons
d. 30,592 gallons
2. Lead acetate paper is used to determine the presence of:

a. Chlorine
b. Hydrogen sulfide
c. Methane
d. Carbon monoxide
3. Sodium Hydroxide is commonly referred to as:

a. Quicklime
b. Soda ash
c. Caustic soda
d. Hydrated lime

Grade II Environmental Compliance

1. A POTW must retain Industrial User records for a minimum of :

a. 2 years
b. 3 years
c. 5 years
d. 10 years
2. The Federal Act that introduced the concept of cradle to grave manifesting for hazardous waste products is:

a. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)
b. Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)
c. Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
d. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)



3. Waste discharge regulations can be concentration or mass based except for:
- sodium and sulfate.
 - total toxic organics.
 - pH and temperature.
 - cyanide.
4. AAA Plating has had a fire during the night. AAA Plating is located four blocks from the Water Reclamation Plant and has almost a direct connection to the plant's major trunk line. As a member of the City's response team, you have been assigned the task of calculating the amount of chromium discharged to the sanitary sewer due to the fire. The fire damage is only a small area within the plating shop. Two 300 gallon tanks were released due to the fire. One tank contained chromium at 1,500 mg/L while the second tank contained chromium at 3,000 mg/L. You have been informed by the fire department that they were only able to contain the plating solutions until 5:00 am. The fire department estimates that an additional 5,000 gallons of water was contained and released due to the fire fighting effort.

Calculate the chromium concentration being discharged to the trunk line (assume the total volume of the discharge has been homogenized and that the plating solutions are the only source of chromium)

- 11.26 mg/L
- 2250.10 mg/L
- 2010.70 mg/L
- 241.10 mg/L

Grade III Environmental Compliance

1. The local municipal sewage treatment plant's effluent has a TDS averaging 600 mg/L. The flow averages 24 MGD. The maximum allowable discharge of TDS in the effluent is 750 mg/L. A new industry is proposing to locate in this town and to discharge 1.5 MGD to the sewer. The agency intends to keep the treatment plant's effluent TDS below 710 mg/L.
- What is the maximum TDS concentration the new industry can discharge at the proposed 1.5 MGD flow rate?
- 2470 mg/L
 - 1760 mg/L
 - 3360 mg/L
 - 210 mg/L
2. An industrial user is billed monthly for BOD, Suspended Solids and Flow. The total flow discharged in 24 hours is 50,000 gallons. The company sampled for BOD and TSS on a weekly basis with the following results:

Week	BOD, mg/L	TSS, mg/L	Flow, gallons
1	1350	900	350,000
2	4000	2200	245,000
3	900	450	500,000
4	1500	1000	375,00

The agency's sewer rates are charged per 1,000 pounds of BOD or TSS and per million gallons of flow. The rates are: BOD \$28.00, TSS=\$8.00, Flow=\$1100.00 per million gallons. What is the industrial user's total sewer charge for this one month?

- \$2,289.41
- \$68,881.00
- \$1,697.65
- \$674,257.00

Grade IV Environmental Compliance

1. One of your senior inspectors received a promotion and left. You must decide whether to replace her with two trainees or one experienced inspector. In your justification to your boss, you should include:
- an equally balanced argument for both options. Let him decide.
 - a carefully developed argument for only the option you prefer. Ignore the other option.
 - a thorough review of all reasonable alternatives, including not replacing the promoted inspector, and a recommendation with a justification.
 - copies of job descriptions, the relevant portion of your hiring practices, and the most recent performance review of the departed inspector.
2. You are concerned about analyses reports you have been receiving. Your investigation includes review of the Lab QA records. The lab reports four replicate analyses with the following results:

[M]=34 µg/L, [M]=30 µg/L, [M]=45 µg/L, [M]=33 µg/L.

A fifth replicate is reported as [M]=50 µg/L
The fifth value is:

- above the Warning Limit, but below the Control Limit.
- above the Control Limit.
- below the Warning Limit.
- within one standard deviation of the mean.

Answer Key

Question #	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
1	c	b	a	c
2	b	d	a	a
3	c	c	—	—
4	—	d	—	—



Selected References

The following table lists references that may be useful when studying for the certification test. The table lists primary and supplementary study references. Primary study references are recommended as the best sources for studying for the certification test. Supplementary study references are recommended as sources that will help to further your understanding of the subject matter beyond the primary references.

For each reference a “P” indicates Primary reference and an “S” indicates a Supplementary reference. Check the Grade column that corresponds to the grade level you will be taking to determine if a reference is Primary or Supplementary. Blank boxes indicate that the reference is not appropriate for that grade level.

Reference	Grade			
	I	II	III	IV
<i>CalTrans Traffic Safety Manual</i> . www.dot.ca.gov	S	S		
Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Government Printing Office, Title 40, Part 403. (40 CFR 403). Available on the internet at http://www.epa.gov/epahome/rules.html#codified		S	P	P
Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Government Printing Office, Title 40, Part 404-471 (40 CFR 404-471) Available on the internet at http://www.epa.gov/epahome/rules.html#codified		S	P	
<i>Developing Source Control Programs for Commercial and Industrial Wastewater</i> , WEF MOP OM-4. Alexandria, VA: Water Environment Federation. 800-666-0206. www.wef.org	P	P	P	P
<i>Financing And Charges For Wastewater Systems</i> . A Joint Committee Report Of The American Public Works Association, The American Society Of Civil Engineers, And The Water Pollution Control Federation. 800-666-0206			S	S
<i>Guidance Manual on the Development and Implementation of Local Discharge Limitations Under the Pretreatment Program</i> , (1987). Washington, DC: USEPA Office of Water Enforcement and Permits. EPA Water Library 202-267-7786 www.epa.gov			P	P
<i>Environmental Compliance Inspector Study Guides</i> Grades 1-4, (2001). Oakland, CA: California Water Environment Association. 510-382-7800. www.cwea.org	P	S	S	S
<i>Industrial Wastewater Source Control</i> , (1992). 800-233-9936 CRC Press www.crcpress.com	S	S		
<i>Industrial User Inspection and Sampling Manual for POTWs</i> , (1994). Washington, DC: USEPA Office of Wastewater Enforcement and Compliance. (EPA 831-b-94-001). EPA Water Library 202-267-7786 www.epa.gov	P	P	P	P
<i>Industrial User Permitting Guidance Manual</i> , (1989). Washington, DC: USEPA Office of Wastewater Enforcement and Permits. EPA Water Library 202-267-7786 www.epa.gov	P	P	P	
<i>ISCO Flow Monitoring Handbook</i> . www.environmentalexpert.com	S	P	S	
“Manage for Success: Effective Utility Leadership Practices”, Office of Water Programs, California State University Sacramento, (916) 278-6142. www.owp.csus.edu			P	P
<i>Plant Manager’s Handbook</i> , WEF MOP SM-4, (1986). Alexandria, VA: Water Environment Federation. 800-666-0206 www.wef.org				S
<i>Pretreatment Facility Inspection: A Field Study Training Program</i> , 3 rd edition. (1996) California State University, Sacramento School of Engineering, Office of Water Programs. 916-278-6142 www.owp.csus.edu	P	S	S	
<i>Pretreatment of Industrial Wastes</i> , WPCF Manual of Practice No. FD-3. Alexandria, VA: Water Environment Federation. 800-666-0206. www.wef.org		P	S	S
<i>Safety And Health In Wastewater Systems</i> , WEF MOP 1. Washington, D.C.: Water Environment Federation. 800-666-0206	S	S	S	S
<i>Uniform System of Accounts for Wastewater Utilities</i> . WPCF Manual of Practice No. 10. Alexandria, VA: Water Environment Federation. 800-666-0206				S
<i>Wastewater Sampling for Process and Quality Control</i> , WEF MOP OM-1. Alexandria, VA: Water Environment Federation. 800-666-0206	S	S	S	

More online sources are listed on the back cover

For information about obtaining these publications, check the website or call the phone number listed in the reference. If no website or phone number is listed, contact the publishing agency directly or contact your local library or bookstore.

This reference list is intended to assist certificate candidates in their study for Environmental Compliance Inspector Certification test. Use of these references does not guarantee successful completion of the test. There may be other publications that may be helpful to candidates preparing for the test. CWEA encourages candidates to identify and utilize other resources in preparing for the test.



Preparing For Your Test

This section addresses a few possible methods for preparing for the certification test. Since you are most familiar with your own abilities, you are responsible for determining the best method for preparing for your certification test. Following the suggestions in this section does not guarantee you will pass the certification test.

Determining Your Preparedness: An individual's preparedness for the certification test depends on a number of things including amount of practical experience in the vocation and years of education. If you are unsure how prepared you are for the test review the *Essential Duties* and *Test Content Areas* for the test that you are considering. If you are not familiar with most of the *Essential Duties* and *Test Content Areas*, you should consider reviewing some of the material in the references listed for that grade level. You may also want to consider applying for a lower grade level if appropriate.

Using The Selected References: After evaluating how well prepared you are for the test you may want to review some of the Selected References. The references in this list may be used to review those Test Content Areas that you are not familiar with or those for which you have little background. Well prepared candidates may only have to brush up on a few topics while those less prepared may have to study extensively.

Study Sessions: CWEA Local Sections host at least two study sessions in various parts of California. All applicants will be mailed the date and location of the nearest preparation classes. Usually these classes are given about two months before the test date and last a full day with Grades I and II material covered in the morning and Grades III and IV covered in the afternoon.

Using the Essential Duties and Test Content Areas as a Guide to Your Study: The Essential Duties (EDs) are a basic outline of the test subject matter. You can use the EDs as your study guide by referring to the EDs in the primary Selected References. For example, if you are preparing for the Grade II test, and you are not very familiar with ED #4 (Reviewing pollution prevention plans, etc.), you can look up "Pollution Prevention, Source Control" in the index of *Pretreatment Facility Inspection*. There you can read about pollution prevention and source control on pages 611-620. Similarly, you could read about Test Content Areas (TCAs) #212 and 224 (Pretreatment technologies and inspection), in the same reference. As you study you will find that many of the TCAs are closely related to the EDs. Each test question is written to address at least one TCA and its related ED.



FAQs Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Is it required that I begin at the Grade I level then work my way up from there to higher levels?

Answer: No. You may take any test that you qualify for with your education and experience. However, if you are just starting out, you can see by the education and experience requirements that you can work your way up the grade levels faster if you become certified at Grade I, then achieve each successive certification as soon as you get the required education and experience.

Question: If I take a Grade II, III, or IV test will I have to know the Test Content Areas for the lower level tests?

Answer: Yes. The subject matter for each test builds on the subject matter for those tests below its grade level. A thorough knowledge of the Test Content Areas for the grade level that you are taking is most important to your preparation, but you should expect questions from any of the lower grade levels.

Question: If I am re-taking a test that I had previously failed do I need to re-submit a full application and the entire application fee.

Answer: No, you must complete the re-test application and pay the appropriate fees.

Question: Is continuing education required to renew my certification?

Answer: Yes. For any certificate earned on or after July 2002, you need to obtain 12 hours of continuing education every two years. For more information, visit www.cwea.org, or feel free to call the CWEA office.

Question: How long is the test?

Answer: All tests have about 75-100 questions and 3 hours are given for completion.

Question: Can I take more than one certification test at once?

Answer: Yes, under a different vocation and grade level.

Question: How do I get a receipt showing I paid for the test?

Answer: A receipt is sent to all applicants who have paid their fees about one month after the application deadline. Hold on to this receipt until the certification process is over in case you have to submit it to your employer for reimbursement.

Question: If I am applying for the Grade IV, test do I need to be a supervisor?

Answer: No. You just need to have about one year of supervision experience. You do not have to hold the title of "Supervisor."



Application Periods

September 1 through November 30

December 1 through February 28

March 1 through May 31

June 1 through August 31

Testing Periods

January 2 through March 31

April 1 through June 30

July 1 through September 30

October 1 through December 31

Other CWEA Certificate Programs

- ◆ Biosolids Land Application Management
- ◆ Collection System Maintenance
- ◆ Laboratory Analyst
- ◆ Plant Maintenance
- ◆ Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Operator

For more information about these programs call CWEA at 510-382-7800, or visit our web site at www.cwea.org



Source	URL
EPA Home page	http://www.epa.gov/
EPA National Environmental Publications Information	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/publications.htm
EPA National Center for Environmental Publications Info	http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/
EPA Office of Water Management	http://epa.gov/OWM/
EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Sector Notebooks	http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/assistance/sectors/notebooks/
California EPA	http://www.calepa.ca.gov
California State Water Resources Control Board	http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/
California Codes Online	http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html
Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies	http://amsa-cleanwater.org
Water Environment Federation	http://www.wef.org/Home
Code of Federal Regulations Online	http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html
Federal Register Online	http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html



California Water Environment Association

7677 Oakport Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94621



Have a question?
Give us a call at (510) 382-7800.