



**STATE OF MAINE**  
**BOARD OF LICENSURE OF WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTER OF DISEASE CONTROL  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
11 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0011

<b>POLICY FOR EVALUATING EXPERIENCE TO QUALIFY FOR LEVEL OF OPERATOR LICENSES</b>
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**Purpose:** Pursuant to 90-429 Chapter 429 *et seq.*, the *State of Maine Rules Relating to the Licensure of Water Treatment and Distribution System Operators*, the State of Maine Board of Licensure of Water System Operators (Board of Licensure) must evaluate potential operators experience to have full or Operator In Training licenses. This policy will assure equitable measurement of experience for examinees by further explanation of the rules.

**Scope:** Applicants for Water System Operator Licenses.

**Originator:** Teresa L. Trott/Board of Licensure of Water System Operators

**Policy:**

**1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- B. Work experience in a Public Water System is defined as that gained in actual performance of operational activities within any Public Water System.**<sup>1</sup>

Clarification: work experience means involvement in Public Water System operations in any of the following capacities: managerial (inclusive of trustee, council or director position); administrative or office; operations; and maintenance. With regard to time involved, work experience relates to calendar time associated with the Public Water System activities and not to actual hours worked at a Public Water System.

- C. Related experience may include, but is not limited to, wastewater treatment operations, pilot studies, design, planning, construction and other technical disciplines.**<sup>2</sup>

Clarification: acceptable related experience in work activities involving craft and construction trades, design, engineering, geological or other technical or scientific

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<sup>1</sup> 90-429 Chapter 1, State of Maine, RULES RELATING TO THE LICENSURE OF WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATORS, SECTION 4, OPERATOR CLASSIFICATION, p 6.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

disciplines must be related to water, wastewater, hydraulic or other fluid system activities, mechanical operations, marine operations, or electrical and pneumatic operations related to fluid systems or fluid system controls. Acceptable experience includes drafting; plumbing; siting, laying and joining of pipe and/or other fluid system components; installation, set-up, maintenance and repair of pumps, valves, control systems, and machinery; planning, design, hydrologic or engineering studies related to water, wastewater or other fluid system activities; or other technical or scientific activities as acceptable to the Board of Licensure.

Educational experience in physical, chemical and biological sciences, engineering, water treatment operations, or other technical training related to fluid system operations will be credited as follows: 60 credit hours (two year program) is equivalent to one (1) year of water operations; 120 credit hours (four year program) is equivalent to two (2) years of water operations. The successful completion of a course specific to the water profession or certificate will be awarded experience equivalent to process for awarding Training Contact Hour (TCH) credit i.e. Fifty (50) hours of study is equivalent to one (1) month of experience. Example for each volume of field study manual of the Sacramento Courses on water operations are awarded 3 months of experience.

Related experience outside of Public Water System operations requires twice as much calendar time involvement in the above activities as compared to calendar time involvement in Public Water System operations. For example, two (2) year's involvement in wastewater operations is equivalent to one (1) year's involvement in Public Water System operations, or nine (9) month's involvement in millwright work is equivalent to four and one half (4 ½) month's involvement in Public Water System operations.

### **References:**

State of Maine Rules Relating to the Licensure of Water Treatment and Distribution System Operators

**Supersedes:** Original May 15, 2002, titled "Section 4, Operator Classification General Requirements, Experience Clarification Policy"

### **Retention:**

1. This document is retained per the DWP Documentation Control Procedure.
2. This document must be approved by the Board of Licensure

### **Revision Log**

Section	Page	Rev.	Date	Description Of Change	Approved by:
		1	5/21/2009	Amended Educational experience.	Board