



Rule Revision to Begin

Waterworks Operator Certification Rule

Chapter 246-292 WAC

What is the purpose of this rule revision?

The rule revision is necessary to incorporate changes made in Public Water Supply Systems – Operators, [chapter 70.119 RCW in Substitute House Bill 1283](#). The changes include:

- Strengthening the department’s authority to take immediate enforcement actions in cases of gross negligence.
- Clarifying the department’s authority to certify backflow assembly testers and cross-connection control specialists.
- Amending the definition of a “Group A public water system” to be consistent with other related statutes.
- Adding a reference to the specialty plumbers licensing requirements that cover some activities performed by backflow assembly testers licensed under chapter 18.106 RCW.

Other rule revision topics include:

- Addressing large public water system recruitment issues to allow broader substitution options for minimal education requirements.
- Adding a new definition and requirements for “responding in a timely manner” to identify a reasonable response time for contract operators during an emergency.
- Revising temporary certification requirements for surface water treatment plant operators to align with national standards.
- Evaluating existing program guidelines for possible adoption into the rule.

What’s been done so far?

We filed a notice (WSR# 09-21-043) to begin revising the Waterworks Operator Certification rule with the Washington State Register on October 13, 2009. You can view this document beginning November 4 online at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/laws/wsr/2009/21/09-21-043.htm>

What is the rule development timeline?

Develop draft rule	October 2009	to	February 2010
Informal draft rule review	March 2010	to	July 2010
Develop formal proposed rule	August 2010	to	December 2010
Public hearing - Formal comment period	January 2011	to	February 2011
Rule adoption	March 2011	to	May 2011

How do I stay informed?

Check out our Rules Web page for updates, watch for our rulemaking Listserv e-mail notices, and read our quarterly newsletter, “*Water Tap*.”

If you are not signed up to receive our rulemaking notices by e-mail, you can join the Rules Listserv by going to our Web at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/> and then click on “Drinking Water Rules” Listserv at the bottom of the page to sign up.

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