

567—81.10(455B,272C) Continuing education.**81.10(1)** *Continuing education unit (CEU) general requirements.*

a. Only those operators fulfilling the CEU requirements before the end of each two-year period (March 31) will be allowed to renew their certificate(s). All certificates of operators who did not fulfill the CEU requirements as of April 1 of the second year shall expire on June 30 of each odd-numbered year.

b. CEUs must be earned during two-year periods between April 1 and March 31 of odd-numbered years.

c. A Grade III or IV certified operator must earn two CEUs or 20 contact hours per certificate during each two-year period.

d. All other certified operators must earn one CEU or 10 contact hours per certificate during each two-year period.

e. For those certified operators holding both a water treatment and a water distribution certification, no less than 25 percent of the required CEUs may be earned in any one area.

81.10(2) *CEU approval.* All activities for which CEU credit will be granted must be approved by an accredited college, university, technical institute, or the department, and must be directly related to the subject matter of the particular certificate to which the credit is being applied. Any entity holding courses in Iowa for which CEU credit is offered for operator certification must provide, at no cost to the department, the opportunity for one staff member to audit the training and receive all training materials.

81.10(3) *Exceptions.* The following exceptions apply to the requirements of this rule.

a. The director may, in individual cases involving hardship or extenuating circumstances, allow a certified operator up to three additional months to fulfill the minimum CEU requirements. Hardship or extenuating circumstances include documented health-related confinement or other circumstances beyond the certified operator's control that prevent attendance at the required activities. All extension requests must be made prior to March 31 of each biennium.

b. Newly certified operators (previously uncertified) who become certified after April 1 of the second year of a two-year period will not be required to earn CEUs until the next two-year period.

c. If an operator upgrades a certificate after April 1 of the second year of a two-year period and that upgrade increases the CEU requirement, the operator will not be required to meet the higher CEU requirement until the next two-year period, but must fulfill the lower CEU requirement for that period.

81.10(4) *CEU reporting.* It is the certified operator's personal responsibility to maintain a written record of the CEUs earned during each renewal period and to report the credits to the department by following the instructions on the department's website at www.iowadnr.gov.

[ARC 9212C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]