

567—81.9(455B) Operator certification.

81.9(1) Examination requirement. All applicants not certified by reciprocity pursuant to 81.9(3) shall successfully pass an operator certification examination prior to receiving certification.

81.9(2) Certification.

a. In order to receive a certificate, an applicant who passes an examination shall submit the certification fee to the department within 60 days of the date the applicant receives notification from the department of passing the examination. Payment may either be digitally submitted in accordance with the instructions on the department's website at www.iowadnr.gov, mailed, or hand delivered. All certification fee payments that are mailed or hand delivered shall be submitted with the applicant's notification of passing the examination.

b. Any certification payment digitally submitted, postmarked, or hand delivered to the department more than 30 days but less than 60 days after the date the applicant received notification of passing the examination shall be accompanied by the certification fee and the late certification penalty fee.

c. An applicant who does not submit the certification fee within 60 days' notice of passing the examination will not be certified on the basis of that examination.

81.9(3) Certification by reciprocity.

a. Other states' mandatory certification programs. Applicants who have been certified under other states' mandatory certification programs, the equivalency of which has been previously reviewed and accepted by the department, shall be certified in an appropriate classification and grade without examination. The applicant must have passed an examination generally equivalent to the Iowa examination and must meet the education and experience qualifications established in this chapter.

b. Other states' voluntary certification programs. For applicants who have been certified under voluntary certification programs in other states, certification in an appropriate class will be considered. The applicant must have passed an examination generally equivalent to the Iowa examination and must meet the education and experience qualifications established in this chapter. The director may require the applicant to pass the Iowa examination.

c. Reciprocity application.

(1) Applicants seeking reciprocal Iowa certification shall submit a reciprocity application form provided by the department and the certification fee. The applicant shall be certified at the appropriate grade pursuant to 81.6(1).

(2) An applicant who is a veteran shall submit a reciprocity application form provided by the department and the certification fee and shall provide documentation to verify their status as a veteran as defined in Iowa Code section 35.1(2).

d. Lapse of certification obtained through reciprocity. An applicant who obtains certification in Iowa through reciprocity and subsequently allows their Iowa certification to lapse will be required to reapply for certification in accordance with 81.9(5) "e."

81.9(4) Restricted certification. Upon written request by a certified operator, the director may determine that the education qualifications can be waived prior to an examination when a plant or distribution system classification is increased and the operator has been in DRC of the existing plant or distribution system. An operator passing an examination will be restricted to that plant or distribution system until the education qualifications are met.

81.9(5) Certification renewal.

a. Renewal period. All certificates shall expire on June 30 of odd-numbered years and shall be renewed every two years in order to maintain certification.

b. Continuing education requirements for renewal. The CEU credits detailed in 567—81.10(455B,272C) shall be obtained prior to any certificate renewal.

c. Renewal application and fee.

(1) Certification renewal applications shall be made available to certified operators on the department's website at www.iowadnr.gov prior to the certificate expiration date.

(2) All renewal applications shall be digitally submitted, postmarked, or hand delivered to the department prior to certificate expiration and shall be accompanied by the certification renewal fee.

d. Late renewal. Any certification renewal application digitally submitted, postmarked, or hand delivered to the department after certificate expiration shall be accompanied by the certification renewal fee and the late certification renewal penalty fee.

e. Failure to renew. If a certified operator fails to renew within 60 days following certificate expiration, the right to renew the certificate is automatically terminated. Certification may be allowed at any time following such termination, provided that the applicant meets all education and experience eligibility requirements of 567—81.6(455B), successfully passes an examination, and submits the certification fee in accordance with 81.9(2).

f. Expired certificate. An operator may not continue as the OIC of a plant, distribution system, operating shift, or major segment of a plant or distribution system after certificate expiration unless the certificate is renewed.

81.9(6) *Certificate upgrade.* An operator holding an unexpired certificate may upgrade the certificate by examination to a higher grade in the same classification in accordance with this rule and 567—81.6(455B) and 567—81.8(455B). The expiration date of the upgraded certificate shall be the same as the unexpired certificate. An operator who upgrades a certificate during a biennium must also renew the upgraded certificate in accordance with 81.9(5) to maintain certification.

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