

**567—81.17(455B,272C) Disciplinary actions.**

**81.17(1) *Reasons for disciplinary action.*** Disciplinary action may be taken against a certified operator on any of the grounds specified in Iowa Code section 455B.219 and chapter 272C and the following more specific grounds.

*a.* Failure to use reasonable care or judgment or to apply knowledge or ability in performing the duties of a certified operator.

(1) Wastewater operator duties. Examples of a wastewater operator's duties are specified in the Water Environment Federation Manual of Practice #11, 1996; California State University—Sacramento (CSUS) Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Volume I, 4th edition, 1998; CSUS Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Volume II, 4th edition, 1998; CSUS Advanced Waste Treatment, 3rd edition, 1998; and 567—Chapters 60 through 64, 67, and 83, Iowa Administrative Code.

(2) Water treatment or distribution operator duties. Examples of a water treatment or distribution operator's duties are specified in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manuals of Water Supply Practice (Volumes 1, 3-7, 9, 11-12, 14, 17, 19-38, 41-42, 44-48); AWWA Water Supply Operations Series, 2nd edition: Vol. 1, 1995; Vol. 2, 1995; Vol. 3, 1996; Vol. 4, 1995; and Vol. 5, 1995; AWWA Water Distribution Operator Handbook, 2nd edition, 1976; and California State University—Sacramento (CSUS) Water Treatment Plant Operation, Volume I, 4th edition, 1999; CSUS Water Treatment Plant Operation, Volume II, 3rd edition, 1998; CSUS Small Water System Operation and Maintenance, 4th edition, 1999; CSUS Water Distribution System Operation and Maintenance, 4th edition, 2000; and 567—Chapters 40 through 43 and 83, Iowa Administrative Code.

*b.* Failure to submit required records of operation or other reports required under applicable permits or rules of the department, including failure to submit complete records or reports.

*c.* Knowingly making any false statement, representation, or certification on any application, record, report or document required to be maintained or submitted under any applicable permit or rule of the department.

*d.* Fraud in procuring a license.

*e.* Professional incompetence.

*f.* Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of the licensee's profession or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. Proof of actual injury need not be established.

*g.* Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs.

*h.* Conviction of criminal offenses directly related to the profession or occupation of the operator, consistent with Iowa Code sections 272C.1(8) and 272C.10(5).

*i.* Fraud in representations as to skill or ability.

*j.* Use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements.

*k.* Willful or repeated violations of the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 272C or 455B, division III.

**81.17(2) *Disciplinary sanctions.*** Disciplinary sanctions may include those specified in Iowa Code section 272C.3(2) and the following:

*a. Revocation of a certificate.* Revocation may be permanent without chance of recertification or for a specified period of time.

*b. Partial revocation or suspension.* Revocation or suspension of the practice of a particular aspect of the operation of a plant or distribution system, including the restriction of operation to a particular plant or distribution system, or a particular type of plant or distribution system.

*c. Probation.* Probation under specified conditions relevant to the specific grounds for disciplinary action.

*d. Additional education, training, and examination requirements.* Additional education, training, and reexamination may be required as a condition of reinstatement.

*e. Penalties.* Civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000 may be assessed for causes identified in 81.17(1).

**81.17(3) *Procedure.***

*a. Initiation of disciplinary action.* The department staff shall initiate a disciplinary action by conducting such lawful investigation as is necessary to establish a legal and factual basis for action. The administrator of the environmental protection commission or designee shall make a decision as to any disciplinary action based on the department staff recommendations. Except as specified by this subrule, the disciplinary action shall be initiated by a notice of intended action in accordance with rule 561—7.16(17A,455A). At any time, the licensee and the department may enter into a settlement agreement, subject to approval by the director, which provides for a disciplinary sanction.

*b. Request for hearing.* Notwithstanding references in 561—subrule 7.16(4), a licensee shall be deemed to have waived any right to a contested case hearing unless the licensee appeals the action and requests a hearing within 30 days of receipt of the notice of intended action. If a timely appeal is filed, further contested case procedures shall apply in accordance with 561—Chapter 7.

*c. Appeal and review of proposed decision.* After a contested case hearing conducted in accordance with rule 561—7.14(17A,455A), the director shall review the presiding officer's proposed decision issued in accordance with 561—subrule 7.15(3). The proposed decision shall constitute a final decision of the director and the department unless the licensee or the director and department appeal the proposed decision to the environmental protection commission within 30 days of receipt as provided in 561—subrule 7.15(5).

*d. Effective date of suspension or revocation.* Notwithstanding any contrary interpretation in 561—subrule 7.16(7), suspension, revocation or other disciplinary action shall be effective 30 days after receipt of the notice of intended action if the licensee fails to file a timely appeal and request for hearing. If a contested case hearing is timely requested, the disciplinary action is effective as specified in the presiding officer's proposed decision unless the licensee obtains a stay of the action in accordance with 561—subrule 7.15(7) pending a timely appeal to the environmental protection commission.

*e. Emergency disciplinary action.* The director may initiate an emergency suspension or other disciplinary action upon such grounds and following those procedures as provided in 561—subrule 7.16(6). The terms of the emergency order shall be effective upon service as provided in 561—subrule 7.16(7). The department shall promptly give notice of an opportunity to appeal and request a contested case hearing following the procedures as specified above.

*f. Reinstatement of revoked certificates.* Upon revocation of a certificate in accordance with the authority provided in Iowa Code section 455B.219 and chapter 272C, application for certification may be allowed after two years from the date of revocation unless otherwise specified in accordance with 81.17(2). Any such applicant must meet all education and experience eligibility requirements pursuant to 567—81.7(455B), and successfully complete an examination and be certified in the same manner as a new applicant.

**81.17(4) Noncompliance with child support order procedures.** Upon receipt of a certification of noncompliance with a child support obligation as provided in Iowa Code section 252J.7, the department will initiate procedures to deny an application for certification or renewal, or to suspend a certification in accordance with Iowa Code section 252J.8(4). The department shall issue to the person by restricted certified mail a notice of its intent to deny or suspend operator certification based on receipt of a certificate of noncompliance. The suspension or denial shall be effective 30 days after receipt of the notice unless the person provides the department with a withdrawal of the certificate of noncompliance from the child support recovery unit as provided in Iowa Code section 252J.8(4) "c." Pursuant to Iowa Code section 252J.8(4), the person does not have a right to a hearing before the department to contest the denial or suspension action under this subrule but may seek a hearing in district court in accordance with Iowa Code section 252J.9.

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