

March 31, 2021 – ABC Standardized Exams

On March 31, 2021, Nova Scotia started using ABC standardized exams for drinking water and wastewater operator certification, replacing the current Nova Scotia exams.

The Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) is an association which provides guidance and resources to certification authorities across North America and internationally. Nova Scotia's facility classification and operator certification program was created based upon the model provided by the ABC.

ABC's standardized exams were released for testing in 2017 and have since been adopted throughout Canada and the United States. Using the standardized exams ensures that Nova Scotia operators are certified to the latest international standard of competency.

Nova Scotia is using standardized exams for the following certifications:

- Water Treatment - Class I, Class II, Class III, Class IV
- Water Distribution - Class I, Class II, Class III
- Wastewater Treatment - Class I, Class II, Class III, Class IV
- Wastewater Collection - Class I, Class II, Class III

Standardized Exam Format:

- Multiple choice
- Includes both metric and imperial units
- 110 questions, 10 of which are not included in the final score
- No regulatory questions, as the exams are used in other jurisdictions

Preparing for Your Exam:

- Visit our web site at <https://novascotia.ca/wwoc>. Here, under the examinations tab, you will find a link to "[ABC Need to Know Guides](#)". This link will take you to ABC's website where the latest Need-to-know criteria is published.
- ABC's website also provides other examination resources such as study guides and sample exam questions.

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

Water Operator Certification, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change

Email: wwoc@novascotia.ca

Phone: 902-225-5037 or 902-424-2553

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why do the standardized exams being implemented March 31 have 110 questions?

- *The 10 additional questions will help ABC gather data about new items before they are included in future exams. These questions are unidentified and will not be included in the final score. Their level of difficulty is appropriate and consistent with the level of difficulty of the scored questions.*

Will ABC send me my exam mark?

- *No, ABC cannot provide your exam mark. Environment and Climate Change will send you your exam mark.*

If I want to check the status of my exam mark, should I follow-up with ABC?

- *No. Please contact Environment and Climate Change if you want to check on the status of your exam mark.*

How were the exams developed?

- *Exams were developed based on results from a 2014-15 job analysis conducted by ABC where input from over 7,000 industry stakeholders was collected. Operators from across Canada were involved in developing the exam questions. The new exams were piloted across Canada in 2017.*

Do these changes impact operator-in-training exams?

- *No, operator-in-training exams will remain the same.*