



Computer-Based Testing Begins January 2009

In 2009, the Technical Certification Program will be converting from paper-and-pencil examinations to computer-based testing. Computer-based testing, also known as CBT, will allow you flexibility in scheduling exams throughout the year, choosing from multiple testing windows. One of CWEA's main priorities during the transition to CBT is to make it as easy as possible for our candidates. To help ensure this, we have a demo of CBT on our website available for you to test drive so you can begin to familiarize yourself with the new model. With the launch of CBT comes specific program and policy revisions that will affect the initial testing process. In this edition of "Certification Examiner", we will address some hot button issues we've been hearing from members and certificate holders regarding CBT. Read on and find out more. Try the demo at www.cwea.org/cbt!

Rescheduling July Exam Moves you to a Computer-Based Test

Rescheduling your July exam is easier than it has ever been. Here's what you do:

◆ Requests must be in writing via email, mail or fax to the Technical Certification office.

◆ **Submit your requests no later than Monday, August 4th in writing, to be valid.** If you do not make the deadline, you will forfeit your entire exam fee.

◆ Send a payment for \$35 to cover the administrative fee.

Please note, that if you choose to reschedule, you will be rescheduled to the next testing period which will be in computer-based format.

In the first week of September, you will receive a follow-up letter that will inform you how to schedule an exam with our CBT test vendor, Pearson Vue.



TCP Applications for 2009 will be Available in September

Are you wondering where you can get the TCP application for January 2009? The technical certification exam application is almost ready for release with some slight modifications to reflect the new computer-based-testing format. A downloadable version of the application will be ready by early September on our website at www.cwea.org/cbt. The application deadline for the first testing window will be October 31, 2008, but don't worry; we will give interested TCP candidates enough time to submit application documents. Stay tuned and please check the website regularly for updates on the CBT transition.

In This Issue...

Greetings from your TCP Chair.....p2

CBT Test Site Locations p3

Certification Fee Increase.....p3



CWEA

Certification Examiner

The quarterly newsletter for CWEA certificate holders and wastewater industry employers

We're on the web!
cwea.org/cert

Send reschedule requests to:
EMAIL: certsupp@cwea.org
FAX: 510.382.7810
MAIL: CWEA -TCP Department
7677 Oakport Street
Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94621

"We plan to implement our focus with you, the candidate, in mind."

Greetings from your Technical Certification Program Chair

I am pleased to serve as your new TCP chair for 2008-2009. As Chair of the program, my duty is to keep the focus of the TCP Executive Committee on improving the program and helping provide the resources to support professional development in the wastewater industry through certification.

Since the beginning of our 2008-2009 term, the TCP Executive Committee has been busy coordinating efforts on several fronts:

- ◆ Successfully implement CBT in 2009
- ◆ Create a TCP program succession plan through increased communication within the executive committee
- ◆ Increase the incorporation of TCP study materials and workshop information into the CWEA web-site
- ◆ Develop a Certification Prep Committee

Through these efforts we hope to increase candidates' test resources and help those interested prepare for the Technical Certification exam. Over the course of the next two years, we plan to have established:

- ◆ Schedule of locations for study sessions with Subject Matter Experts trained in moderating that will be truly beneficial to test takers
- ◆ Updated study guides available in a downloadable format over the web

◆ Continue to update and upgrade Technical Certification tests to meet ever-changing legislations and regulations

We plan to implement our focus with you, the candidate, in mind.

Thank you for supporting the TCP program and I look forward to having a successful and productive year.



Sincerely,
Jody Allen

CWEA
TCP Chair
Collection System
Maintenance
Grade IV

CWEA Technical Certification Program Executive Committee (2008–2009)

Chair

Jody Allen South Placer MUD

Vice Chair

John Mays City of Los Angeles

Vice Chair II

Mike Neri City of Folsom

Southern CA Liaison

Simon Watson Orange County SD

Northern CA Liaison

Lenny Rather Oro Loma SD

Board Approves Certification Preparation Committee

At its June 2008 meeting, CWEA's Board of Directors approved establishing a Certification Prep Committee. This Committee will begin operation as a Task Force to oversee all activities related to Technical Certification preparation:



- ◆ Develop a statewide matrix of study sessions with qualified trainers and facilitators
- ◆ Review and revise study guides in coordination with updated tests
- ◆ Explore and implement new technologies for delivering study content

For more info and volunteer opportunities please call Vivien Malig at (510) 382-7800 x 106.

Certification Fee Increase

The 2008 - 2009 budget approved by the Board on June 28 includes a fee increase to help support certification program changes. In order for the program to continue to improve with the changing demands from the industry, the fee increase will assist in balancing the costs in running and supporting continuous testing for wastewater professionals through CBT. With this fee increase, the Board also approved making certification resources like the study guides available online for free to members, while also addressing the need for more study preparation support. The new pricing becomes effective for the January 2009 test application and certificate renewals.

New Certification Fees Begin 2009		
Grade	Application	Renewal
I	\$115	\$61
II	\$130	\$66
III	\$145	\$71
IV	\$160	\$76

Note: Fees shown are for CWEA members; non-members pay additional \$132.

...the fee increase will assist in balancing the costs in running and supporting continuous testing for wastewater professionals through CBT.

Note: Certificate holders who hold certificates with an expiration date of January 31, 2009 and on, please refer to the New Certification Fees chart above.

Computer-based Testing Brings Quarterly Testing Windows

With CBT we'll offer four testing windows during the year. The testing windows will follow standard calendar quarters. The first testing window begins January 1st and ends March 31st. Application deadlines are one month before the beginning of each testing window. If you need to retake a failed exam you must skip one testing window before retaking the test. In other words, you can't take the same test in back-to-back windows.

Month	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	Window 4
Sep	Application Period		Testing Windows & Results	Review Process
Oct				
Nov				Testing Windows & Results
Dec	Review Process	Application Period		
Jan				
Feb	Testing Windows & Results			
Mar		Review Process	Application Period	
Apr				
May		Testing Windows & Results		
Jun			Review Process	Application Period
Jul			Testing Windows & Results	
Aug				

130 CBT Test Site Locations Throughout California

Pearson Vue, our CBT vendor, has more than 130 test site locations in California to accommodate your testing needs. Keep in mind, even though there may be multiple test locations in your area, you must take the exam where you are registered. If you need to reschedule your exam or change your exam site, notify Pearson Vue 24 hours in advance to avoid a penalty for the seat time. Test centers will offer a controlled setting to offer the highest level of test security, therefore, only specifically approved items may be taken into the testing area. A list of approved items will soon be posted on the CWEA website. Please check back mid-September for complete details.

To view a list of Pearson Vue's test sites visit: http://www.cwea.org/cert_cbt_sites.shtml

Expanded Test Sites

- California 134
- Michigan 45
- Hawaii 20
- Missouri 37



Certification & Training Calendar

What You Need to Know About Recertification

Every two years you need to turn in a copy of your certificates of completion, or other official documentation, showing that you have completed a total of at least 12 contact hours along with your certificate renewal fees. All Contact Hours need to be renewed before the "Contact Hours Due Date" on your annual certificate renewal reminder notice.

Contact Hour Due Dates		
Certificate Issued/Renewed Date	Begin Earning Contact Hours	First Contact Hours Due
January 2008	January 2008	January 2010
July 2008	July 2008	July 2010

**CWEA
Technical
Certification
Program**

**Executive
Committee**

Chair (2008-2009)
Jody Allen
South Placer MUD

Vice Chair
John Mays
City of Los Angeles

Vice Chair II
Mike Neri
City of Folsom

Southern CA Liaison
Simon Watson
Orange County SD

Northern CA Liaison
Lenny Rather
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UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS:

September

7th - 9th Northern Regional Training Conference; Sparks, NV
www.cwea.org/calendar.shtml
25th- 27th Tri-State Seminar on the River; Primm, NV; www.tristateseminar.com

October

15th Northern Safety Training Day; Woodland, CA; www.cwea.org/calendar.shtml
18th- 22nd WEFTEC; Chicago, IL; www.weftec.org

Test Drive the Computer-Based Testing Demo

You can try out CBT by downloading and installing the demo from our website at http://www.cwea.org/cert_cbt.shtml. Simply click on "Download the Demo" link to the left, select save, and save the file to your computer. We are developing a web-based version of the demo that will not require a download. We expect the web-based demo to be available on the website by August 2008.



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