

NEW Certification Exams in 2017

Attention Tribal Water and Wastewater Operators:

On April 28, 2017, the National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program at the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) will begin using the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) new 2017 Standardized Certification Exams for paper-booklet testing and Computer-Based Testing.

The ITCA Program is making this switch so that Indian Country is taken into account during the pilot testing of the new exams and to ensure that Tribal operators have the most representative and up-to-date exams for certification.

This document contains important information on topics summarized in the following table:

Highlights of New ABC Certification Exams	New Certification Exams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New ABC Certification Exams for Water & Wastewater Operator Certification ➤ New Need-to-Know Criteria ➤ Updated Formula/Conversion Tables ➤ Updated Exam Reference Lists ➤ Pilot Testing Period for Passing Score Determination ➤ Delayed Scoring April 28, through July 31, 2017 <u>including computer-based exams</u> scheduled during listed dates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water Treatment Levels 1-4 ➤ Water Distribution Levels 1-4 ➤ Wastewater Collection Levels 1-4 ➤ Wastewater Treatment Levels 1-4 <p>Note: Level 1 is the lowest and Level 4 is the highest</p>

New 2017 Editions of the ABC Standardized Operator Certification Exams

The 2017 Standardized Exams have been developed through a rigorous psychometric process that began with 2014-2015 job analyses. In 2016, more than 1,000 new exam questions were written, extensively reviewed, and refined by committees of subject-matter expert volunteers from across the United States and Canada using best practices. The Very Small Water System certification exam has not yet been revised.

New 2017 Need-to-Know Criteria

In the new 2017 editions of the Need-to-Know Criteria, each exam now has its own documentation, rather than a single document for Level 1 through 4.

Updated Formula/Conversion Tables

Based on stakeholder feedback, exam formula/conversion tables are updated and include merged U.S. and Canadian content. Exam questions will include weights and measures in both US Customary and metric units.

Updated Exam Reference Lists

References for the new 2017 standardized exams are similar to those used for past ABC standardized exams. Updates are primarily in recognition of recently published editions of series of materials available from American Water Works Association (AWWA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), and California State University, Sacramento, (CSUS) Office of Water Programs.

ITCA National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program

The new 2017 editions of the Need-to-Know Criteria, updated formula/conversion tables, and updated reference lists can be found on the ABC website at: <http://www.abccert.org>.

Pilot Testing Period for Passing Score Determination

With increasingly rigorous psychometric standards evolving within the industry, it is necessary to establish the passing score of each of the new 2017 Standardized Exams with empirical data. Therefore, pilot testing of the new 2017 ABC Standardized Exams will take place during the time period of **April 28, through June 29, 2017**, to gather sufficient statistical information for ABC to determine the final recommended passing score for each new exam. Given the precision of this process, it is possible that the recommended passing score for each exam will differ, and may not align to the customary 70% that is often implemented in our industry. The ITCA Program will adopt the final recommended passing scores recommended by ABC.

During the pilot testing, the 2017 Standardized Exams will include ten extra questions that have not been used on previous versions of the exams. These are known as “**pre-test**” exam questions and allow ABC to gather necessary data about the new questions before they are included as scored items on future exams. Pre-test questions are unidentified and randomly distributed throughout the exam to ensure candidates answer them with the same care in which they address scored questions. The pre-test questions are NOT included in the candidate’s final score.

Delayed Scoring

The process of establishing recommended passing scores for each of the new 2017 Standardized Exams will inevitably cause delays in providing exam results to candidates. It is expected that scoring will be delayed from April 28, through July 31, 2017. This includes computer-based testing scheduled during the same timeframe. While it is anticipated that data collection may take as long as two months for some exams, other exams may gather data more quickly, allowing the final analysis and implementation of on-demand scoring to take place sooner. Greater number of participation will result in fewer scoring delays.

The ITCA Program is making this switch so that Indian Country is taken into account during the pilot testing of the new exams and to ensure that Tribal operators have the most representative and up-to-date exams for certification. Your patience while waiting for test scores is appreciated.

For more information, please contact the ITCA Tribal Water Department at (602) 258-4822. To learn more about the new exams, feel free to visit the ABC website: <http://www.abccert.org>.

