

Nova Scotia Water & Wastewater Operator Reciprocity FAQ

Purpose

This document explains the process for securing recognition in Nova Scotia of a water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment, or wastewater collection operator certificate gained in a jurisdiction other than Nova Scotia.

Each Canadian province, with the exception of Quebec, have signed the Canadian Reciprocity Agreement, indicating they will recognize the validity of the certificates issued by the provinces that signed the Agreement.

Q1: I am an operator in another Canadian jurisdiction that is not Quebec. How do I apply for reciprocity?

To be considered for reciprocity you must fill out the [Nova Scotia Reciprocity Application Form](#). You must provide a photocopy or scan of the certificate you wish to transfer. There is no fee.

Nova Scotia Environment will verify with the certifying province in writing that such certificate(s) is (are) valid, that there are no performance or ethical issues against the operator, nor any other reasons the certificate or license should have been revoked or suspended.

Q2: My operating experience is from another province and I want to challenge the exam in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia will accept experience gained in other Canadian Provinces towards the experience requirement of the application. The applicant must complete the [Operator Certification Exam Application](#). List out-of-province experience in the work experience section. If you run out of room, you may attach additional pages. In the appropriate section, you must secure the signature of the supervisor or owner of the facility in which you worked to verify the experience gained as an operator.

Alternatively, Nova Scotia Environment will accept experience verified by the certifying body of the other jurisdiction. You must pay the normal exam application fee.

Q3: I have certification in Quebec and want to become certified in Nova Scotia.

If you have not taken an ABC exam in Canada, you will have to do so. However, operational experience obtained in Quebec may be accepted to fulfill the experience requirement. Contact wwoc@novascotia.ca and describe your experience in detail including the facility classification, operational details, and contact details of a supervisor or facility owner who will verify the experience.

Q4: I have water or wastewater certification from outside of Canada and want to transfer it to Nova Scotia.

Your experience may be accepted after review. Contact wwoc@novascotia.ca and describe your experience in detail including the facility classification, operational details, and contact details of a supervisor or facility owner who will verify the experience.

Q5: How long will my application take?

You will receive a written decision of your reciprocity application within 30 days of submission.