

WAGE GRADE CAREER PATH

WG 5408

WASTEWATER PLANT OPERATOR/WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

This occupation covers nonsupervisory work involved in the operation of wastewater treatment facilities and plants to treat and dispose of waterborne domestic waste or industrial wastewater.

WG02 - **Step**
WG05

Part 1

Apprentice/Helper/Trainee; Trade/Less than Journeyman

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| | 1 | Complete New Hire Orientation |
| | 2 | Complete Civilian Training Plan requirements for current position |
| | 3 | Complete task qualifications for current position |
| | 4 | Complete task certifications for current position |
| | 5 | Master simple to common work tasks under supervision |
| | 6 | Maintain successful to above average performance ratings |

WG05 -
WG08

Part 2

Trade/Less than Journeyman

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| | 1 | Continue required on-the-job and formal classroom training required in Civilian Training Plan |
| | 2 | Complete task qualifications for current position |
| | 3 | Complete task certifications for current position |
| | 4 | Master common to complex work tasks. |

Grade 7 wastewater plant operators work in wastewater treatment plants which provide pretreatment and primary treatment of effluent wastewater or liquid waste. At this level, they monitor wastewater treatment equipment and gauges according to a prescribed schedule and perform routine operator maintenance. The operators perform routine tests such as standard jar and ion concentration (pH) tests and record results in standardized reports. They make adjustments to control valves and pumps in the wastewater treatment process.

Grade 8 wastewater treatment plant operators provide, in addition to the pretreatment and primary treatment performed at grade 7, secondary treatment of wastewater, which promotes bacteriological growth that is used to feed on nonsettling solids. Grade 8 operators do more extensive testing than grade 7 operators to determine such things as biochemical oxygen demand, suspended and dissolved solids, and dissolved oxygen. They increase or decrease chemical agents based upon the results of these and similar tests. Operators at this level record the results in standardized reports designed to meet Federal and State regulations

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| | 5 | Maintain successful to above average performance ratings |
|--|---|--|

Part 3
Journeyman

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| | 1 | Continue required on-the-job and formal classroom training required in Civilian Training Plan |
| | 2 | Complete task qualifications for current position |
| | 3 | Complete task certifications for current position |
| | 4 | Master common to complex work tasks. At Grade 9, wastewater treatment plant operators treat industrial wastewater by removing nitrogen, phosphorous, soluble chemicals, oils, and heavy metals such as copper and chrome. Grade 9 level operators perform testing that is more varied and complex than grade 8 operators to determine such things as sedimentary characteristics and flow rates, adjust for pH, and add proper amounts of chemicals to precipitate heavy metals. Similar to the grade 8 level, operators at this level record the results in standardized reports designed to meet Federal and State regulations |
| | 5 | Provide production support services |
| | 6 | Maintain successful to above average performance ratings |

This list is not all inclusive. For more information on your series, visit the OPM site below. Copy and paste the link in your browser.

[OPM Classification Standards](#)