

**NEW ENGLAND WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

DEFINITIONS

Drinking Water Operator: “An individual either employed, or retained by a public water supply system who, as part of their active job duties, is assigned the responsibility for operational activities that will directly impact the quality and/or quantity of drinking water provided to consumers.”

Primary Operator: “A *Drinking Water Operator* (as defined) designated by the public water system who has direct responsible charge of daily operations of the treatment facility (facilities) and/or distribution system(s).”

Secondary Operator: “A *Drinking Water Operator* (as defined) designated by the public water system who, in the absence of the *Primary Operator*, has direct responsible charge of daily operations of the treatment facility (facilities) and/or distribution system(s).”

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PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS

The NEWWA Operator Certification Committee has developed the following rules of conduct of ethics for water system operators.

In order to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills and practice in the profession of water system operations and to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public, the following rules of professional conduct are adopted by every person holding a license as a water system operator in New England.

All persons licensed in New England States are required to have knowledge of the existence of these rules of professional conduct and understand them.

1. The water systems operator shall, at all times, recognize his, or her primary obligation is to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public in the performance of his, or her duties. If his, or her judgement is overruled under circumstances where the safety, health, and welfare of the public are endangered, he or she shall inform his, or her employer of the possible consequences and notify such other proper authority of the situation, as may be appropriate.
2. The water systems operator shall accept and perform water operations assignments only when qualified by education, or experience, in the specific technical area and levels of water operations involved. The water systems operator may accept an assignment requiring education, or experience outside of his, or her, own field of competence, but only under the direct supervision of licensed, qualified co-workers, consultants, or employees.
3. The water systems operator shall be completely objective and truthful in all professional reports, statements, or testimony. He, or she, shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony.

4. The water systems operator shall avoid conflicts of interest with his, or her, employer, or customer, but, when unavoidable, the water system operator shall promptly disclose the circumstances to his, or her, employer, or customer, of any business association, interest, or circumstances which could influence his, or her, judgement, or the quality of his, or her, work. The water system operator shall not review, or influence the decision of his, or her employees' work for any public body on which he, or she may serve.
5. The water system operator shall not solicit, or accept financial, or other valuable items from material, or equipment suppliers for specifying their product.
6. The water system operator shall not solicit, or accept gratuities from contractors, or other parties dealing with his, or her customers, or employer in connection with work for which he, or she is responsible.
7. The water system operator shall not falsify his, or her academic, or professional qualifications. He, or she shall not misrepresent, or exaggerate his, or her degree of responsibility in prior assignments, duties, or accomplishments to enhance his, or her qualifications and work.
8. The water system operator shall not knowingly associate with, or permit the use of his, or her name, or employer's name in a business venture by any person, or company which her, or she knows, or has reason to believe, is engaging in business, or professional practices of fraudulent, or dishonest nature.
9. If the water system operator has knowledge, or reason to believe that another person, or water company may be in violation of any of these rules, he, or she shall present such information to the appropriate regulatory agency in writing, and shall cooperate with the regulatory agency in furnishing information, or assistance as may be required by the agency.