

NEWWA Operator Certification Committee Offenses Providing a Basis for Enforcement Action

The following list of offenses is considered to be good cause to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew an operator's certification. The possible enforcement action taken and the procedure for such action will vary among the individual states. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive and other acts of negligence or incompetence could result enforcement actions against an operator's certification.

Falsification of Records and or Credentials

The operator making false statements or notations on required records or applications, including but not limited to Water Quality Monitoring Reports, Operation and Maintenance Reports, Safety Documentation, Educational Credentials, or Job Experience.

Selective Sampling or Sample Tampering

The operator knowingly alters a sampling period or tampers with the collection, preparation, or analyzation of a sample to yield results not representative of actual water quality.

Dangerous Acts or Failure to Report Environmental Damage

The operator fails to provide a safe, healthful workplace or he/she performs or supervises the performance of activities without the use of proper safety equipment or training. Fails to operate the water system, or equipment in a safe responsible manner, to prevent harm to the environment, public, property, or fellow workers. Fails to document or report environmental or safety violates or incidents.

False or Misleading Statements

The operator gives false or misleading statements (verbal or written) relative to the operation or condition of the water system *or fails to submit required operational documentation to the appropriate party in a timely manner.*

Failure to utilize Proper Process Control

The operator fails to utilize knowledge of process control to properly operate the water system.

Lack of Maintenance

The operator fails to properly maintain the water system, facilities and/or equipment despite having the resources and means for him/her to do so.

Violating Statute or Rule

The operator knowingly violates a federal, state, or local regulatory statute or rule.

Commission of a Crime

The operator commits a crime affecting the water utility, including, but not limited to, theft of water, finances, equipment, materials, or supplies.

Coercion, Bribery, or Extortion

The operator forces another person to undertake an inappropriate or illegal act relating to the water system. Accepts or offers bribes related to the water system, or uses his/her position to extort money or services from others.