

# MWQA News



## MWQA Moving Forward With Plumbing Regulations Proposal

The Minnesota Water Quality Association is moving forward with proposed legislation that will address some aspects of water conditioning licensing regulations. The Association is currently meeting with legislators and hopes to secure a sponsor for the proposal, then present it to the Legislature this year.

MWQA's proposed legislation (i) establishes a clear path to licensure by allowing unlicensed individuals, who register with the state, to gain the practical experience required to take the water conditioning journeyman exam; (ii) allows licensed water conditioning masters and journeymen to install water conditioning equipment in all types of water distribution systems, but subject to numerous restrictions on installations involving non-single family residences (e.g., the system must have been established by a plumber using piping no greater than two inches in diameter and having the appropriate bypass, shut-off or isolation valve); and (iii) clarifies/narrows the definition of "water conditioning servicing" and exempts "servicing" falling under the new definition from a state licensing requirement. (Note: Similar to the requirement for plumbers, a registered unlicensed individual can only do water conditioning installation work involving non-single family residences if the individual is under the direct supervision of a licensed plumbing or water conditioning master or journeyman.)

This legislation makes the water conditioning statute consistent with existing practices, particularly in Greater Minnesota, and with the law/practice in adjoining states. Moreover, the legislation corrects a substantial deficiency in the existing statute, which does not provide individuals who desire

to become licensed journeymen with a way to gain the practical experience required to take the journeyman exam.

Most immediately, the legislation will resolve some current enforcement issues and uncertainties under the existing statute. In the longer term, the legislation will clarify the work which can be undertaken by water conditioning installers and lead to greater career opportunities and professionalism within the field.

In addition to the broader scope of work already authorized for plumbers under the plumbing statute, the legislation specifically allows master and journeyman plumbers to perform all of the work authorized for licensed water conditioning installers. To the extent licensed water conditioning masters and journeymen would be authorized to do installation work in commercial buildings (an existing practice in outstate Minnesota), the work is restricted, given the practical limitations in the legislation, to the replacement of

existing water conditioning equipment and would, therefore, have little impact on plumbers.

After discussions with DOLI staff and representatives from the plumbing trade, the current legislation has been revised in numerous respects: (i) It specifically authorizes plumbing masters and journeymen to do any water conditioning installation work that can be undertaken by licensed water conditioning masters and plumbers; (ii) it removes the authorization to establish an apprenticeship program for water conditioning installers; (iii) it adds additional restrictions to the definition of water conditioning installations involving non-single family residential units; (iv) and, it now requires registered unlicensed individuals to be under the direct supervision of a plumbing or water conditioning master or journeyman when assisting with the installation of water conditioning equipment in commercial buildings.

## *MWQA Faces Challenges in 2015*

This year will possibly present MWQA with its largest challenge. The Association has been working for many months with the Department of Labor and Industry to clarify issues, state concerns and plan legislation. MWQA also met with organized labor and the plumbers trade association. During the next legislative session, we expect to introduce the legislation we have prepared, which will further protect and allow our industry to grow. This endeavor is expected to cost approximately \$40,000 in legal and representation fees to introduce and present the legislation. For that reason, we are asking each of our members, when paying annual dues, to take into consideration the urgency and importance of getting this legislation put into rule. Without your donations in the past, we could not have accomplished what we did in 2014 and what we need to do in 2015!

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mike Herman, MWQA President**

# *Industry Members Recognized For Support*

Thanks to the following MWQA members, and non-members, who have contributed to the MWQA's legal fund. We have spent more than \$26,000 on our proposal to the new Plumbing Code and expect to spend more in 2015. We are asking all members to consider a donation to the legal fund this year.

*aba Water Systems - Plainview*  
*Aquarius Water Cond. - St. Paul*  
*Arrowhead Water - Cloquet*  
*Ben Holzer Unlimited - Perham*  
*Better Water Industries - Tyler*  
*Commers Water - Minneapolis*  
*Culligan - Albert Lea*  
*Culligan - Anoka*  
*Culligan - Austin*  
*Culligan - Baxter*  
*Culligan - Bemidji*  
*Culligan - Benson*  
*Culligan - Buffalo*  
*Culligan - Cloquet*  
*Culligan - Elbow Lake*  
*Culligan - Faribault*  
*Culligan - Kasson*  
*Culligan - La Crosse, Wisconsin*  
*Culligan - Minnetonka*  
*Culligan - Montevideo*  
*Culligan - Northfield*  
*Culligan - Owatonna*  
*Culligan - Pine City*  
*Culligan - Rochester*  
*Culligan - St. Cloud*

*Culligan - Stillwater*  
*Culligan - Wadena*  
*Culligan - Waseca*  
*Ecolab - St. Paul*  
*Ecowater of Marshall*  
*Erkens Water - Cold Spring*  
*Finken Water - St. Cloud*  
*Frakco - Luverne*  
*Haferman Water - Twin Cities*  
*Hellenbrand Water - Waunakee, WI*  
*Hidrocare - Forest Lake*  
*Jahnke Water - Olivia*  
*Kandi Water - Spicer*  
*Mayer Soft Water/Culligan - St. Peter*  
*Mike's Softener Service*  
*McGowan Water - Mankato*  
*Northland Water - Rosemount*  
*Pentair Water*  
*Robert B. Hill Company - Minneapolis*  
*Sterling Water - Eau Claire, Wis.*  
*& Sauk Center, Minnesota*  
*Ultrapure - Driessen Water*  
*Water Control - Ramsey*  
*Zachman's Watercare - Mahtomedi*

## **WQA Testing Available in February and March**

WQA Certification testing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17 and Wednesday, March 25, in Hopkins, Minnesota. Anyone wishing to take a certification test prior to the changes in WQA's program (see article on page 4) is welcome to do so. The registration form for testing is attached to this newsletter. Payment and forms must be sent directly to the national WQA prior to testing day, although a few walk-ins are permitted (but not guaranteed). It is best to pre-register. Testing will be held at the Hopkins Pavilion, 11000 Excelsior Boulevard in Hopkins. Testing is from 1 - 5 p.m. both days, in room 201.



# MWQA Planning Fall Convention October 22-23 in Lakeville

The Holiday Inn in Lakeville will once again be the setting for MWQA's fall convention, scheduled for October 22-23, 2015. Located right off I-35W, the hotel is easy to access and reasonably priced. Mark your calendar for our fall event!

A vendor fair, several educational seminars and updates on the Plumbing Code in Minnesota are some of the events on the MWQA's fall convention schedule.

Tentative plans are to hold educational seminars both days for those with licenses in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Seminar attendees will earn credit toward their license renewals and WQA certification, pending approval.

Events also include a banquet and annual meeting. The current status of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, and MWQA's involvement in pending legislation, will be discussed.

Plan to attend our annual event to reconnect with others in the industry, earn credits required to retain your state license, or to continue your WQA certification. If there are specific topics you would like to see addressed at our educational seminars, let us know!

We look forward to seeing you in October!



**MWQA Annual  
Convention  
Thursday - Friday  
October 22-23, 2015  
Holiday Inn  
Lakeville, Minnesota**



## WC CEU is Due End Of This Year

Water conditioning masters and journeyman licensees in the State of Minnesota must take four hours of approved continuing education during each license period, beginning with the 2015 renewal period. At least two hours must pertain to technical topics related to water conditioning installation and servicing, or the Minnesota state statutes and rules relating to water conditioning. MWQA plans to offer several opportunities for those with Master and Journeyman Water Conditioning licenses to obtain credit before the December 31, 2015 due date. These classes will also be available to those with restricted plumbing licenses. Please take advantage of these opportunities throughout the year to obtain your CEU before the deadline. Contact the MWQA office, or Department of Labor and Industry, if you have questions about your CEU requirements.

## Board of Directors Meeting Dates

MWQA Board meetings are open to any member, and are held at Unco Data Systems in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, February 20**  
**Friday, March 20**  
**Friday, April 17**  
**Friday, May 15**  
**Friday, June 19**  
**Friday, July 24**  
**Friday, August 14**  
**Friday, September 18**

**Friday, October 23**  
**Friday, November 20**  
**Friday, December 18**

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**Minnesota Water Quality  
Association  
PO Box 48452  
Minneapolis, MN 55448  
www.mwqa.com  
Email: info@mwqa.com  
763-754-2123**

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# WQA Certification Program Changing in April

The Water Quality Association is rolling out its new Modular Education Program, an educational program that provides a new pathway to WQA's various professional certifications. The new program will include training that reflects everyday, on-the-job scenarios and customer questions. This program is for anyone involved in the POU/POE treatment market, from non-technical office staff to sales and marketing personnel, to installers and service technicians and system designers. Specific educational pathways address the learning needs of each job role, and provide the flexibility for building custom educational paths based on topics of interest to the learner.

The new program is divided into 8 curricula: Basics, Fundamentals, Installation, Service, Sales, System Design, Advanced-Design, and Advanced-Service. The Basics curriculum is meant for non-technical staff such as receptionists and marketing personnel. The Fundamentals curriculum picks up from the Basics and addresses topics common to sales, system design, installation and service. Specific Core curricula serve as preparation for professional certification, and the advanced curricula lead to the two new Master certification titles: Master Water Specialist, and Master Service Technician.

Once each badge is completed, a Certificate of Completion is awarded. Certain sets of badges will be prerequisites for taking WQA's certification exams. For example, someone wishing to become a Certified Water Specialist (CWS) will need to complete the Basics, Fundamentals, and System Design badges. Someone wishing to become

a Certified Installer (CI) would need to complete the Basics, Fundamentals, and Installation badges. Participants must still pass the respective certification exams to achieve the CWS, CI, CSR, and CCO titles.

The program differs from WQA's previous educational certification program in three main ways. First, educational materials in the new program are presented as short, discreet courses that gradually build in technical difficulty to guide the learner from basic to more advanced concepts. Second, the content for both the courses and the background reading needed to complete them is delivered online. Finally, the courses consist of learning activities that simulate real-world problem solving; the learner is able to immediately apply the education to his/her day-to-day job.

## Educational Materials

The educational materials in this program address a broad range of POU/POE treatment technologies - ion exchange, media filtration, reverse osmosis and other membrane filtration, UV disinfection, ozone disinfection, chlorine disinfection and aeration. The materials also address a broad range of applications besides water softening - drinking water treatment for potability and aesthetics, stain prevention, pH adjustment, and corrosion prevention. WQA will continue to add courses on technologies, applications, and processes as needed. Learners and their employers have the flexibility to build their own curricula or choose from specific badges designed around a treatment technology or application.

## Currently Certified Personnel

Many currently certified personnel will be grandfathered into the new program. As of April 2015 (North America; 2016 Global) certified professionals holding the titles of CWS-V and CWS-VI will be redesignated as Master Water Specialists, and professionals holding the titles of CWS-I, CWS-II, CWS-III and CWS-IV will be redesignated simply as Certified Water Specialists. All Certified Water Specialists will be able to work through the advanced curriculum of the new MEP program to achieve the Master Water Specialist title.

Current Certified Installers (CI) will retain their title and may work through the MEP program to Certified Service Technician and from there to Master Service Technician. In addition, they may pursue through the MEP any other core certification title.

Current Sales Representatives (CSR) will be retitled as Certified Water-Treatment Representatives (CWR). They will be able to pursue any other core certification title through the MEP.

Member price is \$250 annually per subscription; subscriptions are per company location. Each subscription allows for up to 3 users. Nonmember pricing is \$500 annually per subscription. Additional users require additional subscriptions. For example, a company with 4-6 users will require a total of 2 subscriptions.

Visit the WQA website for more information: [www.wqa.org](http://www.wqa.org).



# CERTIFICATION EXAM REGISTRATION FORM

MINNESOTA WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION  
HOPKINS PAVILION (CITY CENTER)  
11000 EXCELSIOR BLVD., ROOM 201  
HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55343



## SELECT EXAM DATE/TIME:

- Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 1:00–5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 1:00–5:00 p.m.

## INFORMATION

WQA MEMBER NUMBER

MALE EXAMINEE FIRST NAME LAST NAME  
 FEMALE

EXAMINEE EMAIL ADDRESS

COMPANY NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP/POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY

COMPANY TELEPHONE

COMPANY FACSIMILE

**Call for discount information if five or more from the same company attend the same testing session. You may attend either session.**

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check:  (payable to WQA Aquatech USA) Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Charge:  MasterCard  VISA  AMEX  Discover

CHECK NUMBER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER'S NAME

SIGNATURE

## EXAM REGISTRATION FEES

(Select all that apply.)

BASIC EXAMS	(MEMBER/NONMEMBER)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Specialist (CWS)	\$120 / \$240
<input type="checkbox"/> Sales Representative (CSR)	\$120 / \$240
<input type="checkbox"/> Installer (CI)	\$120 / \$240

## SPECIALTY EXAMS (MEMBER/NONMEMBER)

(to be taken only by currently certified individuals)

<input type="checkbox"/> Deionization by Ion Exchange	\$95 / \$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Disinfection	\$95 / \$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Filtration	\$95 / \$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Ozonation	\$95 / \$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Reverse Osmosis/Ultrafiltration	\$95 / \$190

SUBTOTAL (U.S.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL (U.S.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTE:

#### Preregistration Deadline

A copy of this form plus payment must be received by six business days prior to the testing session for all exams. Registrations received after the preregistration deadlines are subject to the on-site registration fee.

#### On-Site Registration

An on-site registration fee of \$25.00 is charged for on-site registrations AND all registrations received after the preregistration deadline. Fee must be paid before exam scores are released. WQA DOES NOT GUARANTEE that persons registered on-site can be accommodated for testing.

#### Refunds

Full refunds are made if the examinee cancels the exam registration in writing six or more business days prior to the exam session. NO REFUNDS are given if cancellation is received fewer than six business days prior to the exam date. NO REFUNDS are given for "NO SHOWS" who don't appear for preregistered exams.

## MAIL, FAX, OR EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

Water Quality Association • Attn: Certification Department  
4151 Naperville Road • Lisle, IL 60532-3696 USA  
Phone: 630-505-0160 • Fax: 630-505-9637  
Email: dleblanc@wqa.org

**BE SURE TO MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR FILES.**