

Frequently Asked Questions

Type 4 (Land Application) and Type 5 (Spray Irrigation)

Minnesota Waste Disposal Facility Operator/Inspector Certification

Additional information can be found in Minnesota Statutes 116.41 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7048.

What is a waste disposal facility?

It is a facility that is designed or operated for the purpose of disposing waste on or in the land and has a permit, stipulation agreement, or other written approval from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

What is a waste disposal operator?

An operator means any individual responsible for conducting work at a waste disposal facility. This may include facility managers, supervisors, and equipment operators. It does not include office personnel, laborers, transports, corporate directors, elected officials, or other individuals in managerial roles unless such individuals are directly involved in on-site supervision or operation of a waste disposal facility. It also does not include individuals who store or landspread sewage sludge on property owned or farmed by that individual.

What is a waste disposal inspector?

Inspector means any individual who has governmental authority to routinely review waste disposal facilities to determine compliance with applicable statutes, rules, permits, ordinances, or standards. This may include individuals who are employed as environmental health specialists, or sanitarians, technicians, zoning administrators, county solid waste officers, pollution control specialists, engineers, soil scientists, and hydrologists. It does not include county board members, agency board members, or other individuals employed, appointed, or elected who are not directly involved in routine review of a waste disposal facility.

What is a Type 4 facility?

It is any disposal facility that applies on the land any sewage sludge or semisolids from commercial or industrial operations.

What is a Type 5 facility?

It is any disposal facility that applies on the land any nonhazardous liquid waste from commercial, industrial or agricultural operations.

What are the requirements to be eligible to take the Type 4 examination?

An applicant must:

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent or equivalent experience
- Complete a 2½ day land application of biosolids seminar within three years of the examination date
- Have at least six months land application experience

What are the requirements to be eligible to take the Type 5 examination?

An applicant must:

- Complete the spray irrigation seminar within three years of the examination date
- Have at least three months experience as a Type 5 operator

What are the requirements to be eligible to take the Type 4 or 5 Inspector examinations?

An applicant must meet the same training requirements as the operator requirements; and each applicant must also have conducted 10 inspections of the appropriate type of waste disposal facility in the presence of a certified inspector.

Who is required to be certified?

Operators of waste disposal facilities must be certified to operate the appropriate type of facility. The number of operators required to be certified depends on the size of the facility and the number of operators working at that facility and is determined by the following table:

Number of operators employed	Number needing certification
8	3
4 – 7	2
1 – 3	1

How do I apply to take an examination?

An operator who meets all the eligibility requirements must submit a completed examination application, along with a \$15 application fee to the certification officer 15 days prior to the examination date.

What type of examination is given?

Examinations are closed book and test the applicant's knowledge in one or more of the following areas: basic math, science, public health, rules and laws, facility operation, and facility maintenance. A formula book will be handed out and calculators are allowed. A passing grade is 70%.

When are examinations given?

Exams are given on the last day of most of the training seminars offered by the MPCA Training Unit.

If I fail the examination when can I take it again?

You can reapply and retake the examination after 90 days.

Can I review my examination?

Examinations may be reviewed 60 days within notification of the test results. You may not take notes or be given the correct answers. Exam review is intended as a guide to show you where further study is needed.

Am I certified once I pass the examination?

No, after passing the examination you will be notified that you passed and must submit a \$15 certification fee.

How often must I renew my certificate?

A certificate expires every three years and must be renewed within 30 days of its expiration date. A renewal form will be sent out at least one month prior to the expiration date. To renew you must show evidence of training you attended and submit a \$15 renewal fee with the renewal form.

What are the training requirements for renewing my Type 4 or Type 5 certification?

Type 4 operators must attend **six hours** of approved land application of biosolids training.

Type 5 operators must attend **six hours** of approved spray irrigation training.

Training must be completed from the time of issuance and before the expiration date of the certificate.

What if I do not renew my certificate by the expiration date?

If your certificate has expired it may be reinstated provided the appropriate training was completed prior to the expiration date. To be reinstated you must submit the reinstatement form that shows evidence of the appropriate amount and type of training and a nonrefundable \$30 reinstatement fee.

What if I do not attend any training after the issuance date on my certificate?

If you did not attend any approved training, then the certificate cannot be reinstated and you must retest. The nonrefundable renewal/reinstatement fee may be used towards the exam application fee and certification fee.

When can certification be denied, revoked or suspended?

If a complaint is made against an individual, an investigation will be initiated for the following reasons:

- Submission of false or misleading information or credentials in order to obtain or renew a certificate
- Failure to meet the requirements for renewal certification, or
- Incompetence, negligence, or inappropriate conduct in the performance of operator or inspector duties