Information for New Certified Professionals

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Examination
To become a certified individual in Pierce County, you must successfully pass an exam given by the Washington On-Site Sewage Association (WOSSA). Exams include Installer, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Specialist (Level 2) and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Technician (Level 1).

Contact WOSSA at (253) 770-6594 or visit wossa.org.

Reciprocity
Accepted reciprocity documents: A certificate or email from a Health Department approved County or Representative in lieu of an exam if the applicant is in good standing with the WA State County. Restrictions apply. Confirm details with the Onsite Health Officer.

Application for Certification
Once you successfully complete the exam requirements, you may become certified as an individual in Pierce County. You need to submit the following items to us for review:

Installer
- ✓ Complete certification application with fees.
- ✓ Certificate indicating you have passed the required exam.
- ✓ Signed business letter proving one-year experience working under the supervision of a certified installer in good standing.
- ✓ Proof of 8 hours continuing education or a one-day class.

O&M Specialist (Level 2)
- ✓ Complete certification application with fees.
- ✓ Certificate indicating you have passed the required exam.
- ✓ Proof of 24 hours of continuing education.
- ✓ Written description of experience signed by a certified specialist in good standing, demonstrating a minimum of two (2) years aggregate experience as an OSS installer, designer, regulator, or technician in Pierce County or another county of Washington State.

O&M Technician (Level 1)
- ✓ Complete certification application with fees.
- ✓ Certificate indicating you have passed the required exam.
- ✓ Proof of 8 hours of continuing education.

Installation or O&M Firm Required
We release permits only to a state licensed company. The company must also certify annually with the Health Department. The company must be in active status with our department before we release permits.

- ✓ Complete certification application with fees.
- ✓ Copy of current Labor and Industry General Contractor's license (Exception: Technician-Only Pump and Specialty firms).
- ✓ Copy of current $1,000,000 liability insurance.
- ✓ Document indicating all certified individuals employed with the company (O&M firms require at least one

technician or specialist. Exception: Specialty firms).
- ✓ O&M firms that provide pumping services or have above ground septage storage tanks need truck and tank inspections.
- ✓ All O&M, Installers (performing O&M only) and Pumping firms need an active OnlineRME account (Exception: Specialty firms).
- ✓ O&M firms with below ground septage storage tanks require a watertightness test from a Professional Engineer within 90-days of applying.

Questions? Contact us at (253) 649-1860 or oscp@tpchd.org

Applications submitted or post marked after Feb. 15, 2026 are subject to a $180 late fee. This covers the firm and one Installer/Technician/Specialist. We will also add a $60 late fee for each additional individual application. This includes incomplete applications.

Application for Re-certification
We must receive each item to consider the application complete:

Installer
- ✓ Complete certification application.
- ✓ Proof of continuing education of 8 hours or a one-day class.

O&M Specialist (Level 2)
- ✓ Complete certification application.
- ✓ Proof of continuing education of 8 hours or a one-day class.
- ✓ Documentation of any new training in proprietary devices.

O&M Technician (Level 1)
- ✓ Complete certification application.
- ✓ Proof of continuing education of 4 hours or a half-day class.

Installation, O&M or Specialty Firms
The company must be in active status with us before we release permits.

- ✓ Complete certification application with fees.
- ✓ Copy of current Labor and Industry General Contractor's license. (Exception: Tech-Only Pump and Specialty firms)
- ✓ Copy of current $1,000,000 liability insurance.
- ✓ Document indicating all certified individuals employed with the company (O&M firms require at least one specialist. Exception: Technician-Only Pump and Specialty firms).
- ✓ O&M firms that provide pumping services or have above ground septage storage tanks need truck and tank inspections.
- ✓ O&M firms with below ground septage storage tanks require a watertightness test from a Professional Engineer within 90-days of applying.
- ✓ All O&M, Installers (performing O&M only) and Pumping firms need an active OnlineRME account (Exception: Specialty firms).

Questions? Contact us at (253) 649-1860 or oscp@tpchd.org.