

CertWMSoc



Objectives of qualification

The WMSoc have created a qualification route with regard to specific elements of water management to enable a formal training pathway, covering all elements of a given job role and to raise standards as an ongoing commitment to both service providers and their clients.

WMSoc are delighted to announce the creation of a WMSoc Cert qualification route to ensure comprehensive and relevant training, covering all elements of a given job role, in a structured way. These qualifications will confirm to clients the commitment of those completing the full syllabus which comprises of a number of accredited training modules, followed by a final exam. The modules will be a mix of on-line and classroom courses, with a strong practical element.

Duration: Qualifications to be completed within 3 year window and will be valid for 3 years before resit of an exam or proof of accredited CPD. The various pathways on offer are of different lengths, depending on the amount of technical knowledge required to perform the various tasks.

Benefits

WMSoc will provide a rounded curriculum to meet the needs of various job roles within the water treatment/hygiene industry. The qualification adds to the competence required and understanding of the given job role.

All qualified students will be listed on the WMSoc website for 3 years, and this can be used with customers to confirm the additional level of training undertaken. They will be able to use “WMSoc Cert” as a designation in personal and professional communications.

Explanation of various pathways

Risk Assessment Qualification Pathways

Designed for risk assessors of water systems, there are 3 pathways within the qualification. These pathways include common modules providing an understanding of Legionella, water microbiology and the legal requirements with regards to compliance. There is a common element which covers Legionella risk assessment and introduces the student to reporting, record keeping and the legal requirements of a risk assessment.

LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT OF HOT & COLD WATER AND OTHER SYSTEMS – giving an understanding of the systems as a whole and more details on how they are controlled. Also covered in this pathway are temperature and biocide monitoring, sampling and inspection of water systems to ensure the risk assessor has a good understanding of precautionary measures likely to be in place. The qualification includes a practical risk assessment where the student will have the ability to carry out a practical assignment and produce an executive summary for a bespoke water system within the Practical Training Area.

LEGIONELLA & PSEUDOMONAS RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HEALTHCARE – this follows the foundations for Legionella risk assessment of hot and cold water and other risk systems with an additional module to cover HTM 04-01 and BS 8580-2, Risk assessments for Pseudomonas aeruginosa and other waterborne pathogens – code of practice.

LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT OF COOLING WATER AND OTHER SYSTEMS – this pathway will focus on evaporative cooling systems and will provide an in depth understanding of evaporative cooling water chemistry, cleaning & disinfection of cooling systems followed by Legionella risk assessment for evaporative cooling systems. Focusing on the specifics of cooling towers, their water treatment control programs and tower inspections with examples of equipment within the Practical Training Area.

LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT – HOT & COLD WATER & OTHER RISK	LEGIONELLA & PSEUDOMONAS RISK ASSESSMENT – HEALTHCARE	LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT – EVAPORATIVE COOLING & OTHER RISK SYSTEMS
LEGIONELLA CONTROL & THE LAW - W201		
LEGIONELLA CAUSES & IMPACTS OF INFECTION - W202		
RISK ASSESSMENT OF WATER SYSTEMS (INCLUDING OTHER SYSTEMS) - W264		
AN APPRECIATION OF HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS - W203		COOLING WATER CHEMISTRY FOUNDATION - W255
WATER TREATMENT CONTROL OF HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS - W204		COOLING WATER CHEMISTRY ADVANCED - W256
TEMPERATURE MONITORING, SAMPLING & INSPECTION OF WATER SYSTEMS - W259		CLEANING & DISINFECTION OF COOLING SYSTEMS - W258
LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT – HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS - W265		LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT - EVAPORATIVE COOLING SYSTEMS - W266
	PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA RISK ASSESSMENT IN HEALTHCARE - W268	
Q&A WASHUP SESSION AND FINAL EXAM		

Water Treatment Qualification Route

Ideal for service technicians and engineers dealing with the routine monitoring of water systems. This includes training with regards to temperature monitoring, and cleaning & disinfection techniques. It will provide an understanding of Legionella, water microbiology and legal requirements and an understanding of basic water chemistry and how it reacts in certain environments. This is a practical based qualification pathway. The water treatment qualification is broken down into 4 pathways depending on the specialism of the candidate.

HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS – this is the entry route for the most general of qualifications. Candidates following this pathway will have no specialism in evaporative cooling, steam boiler or closed system environments.

HOT & COLD WATER AND EVAPORATIVE COOLING SYSTEMS – this qualification covers the entry level knowledge with the addition of modules in evaporative cooling water chemistry and the cleaning of cooling towers which will ensure the candidates fully understand these complex and potentially very high risk pieces of equipment.

HOT & COLD WATER AND CLOSED WATER SYSTEMS – this qualification covers the entry level knowledge with the addition of a module in closed hot, cold and chilled water systems. This will give detailed explanation of testing methods, chemical products, how they work and when to use them, thus ensuring the candidate is knowledgeable in closed systems functionality and maintenance.

HOT & COLD WATER AND STEAM BOILER SYSTEMS – this qualification covers the entry level knowledge with the addition of steam boiler water chemistry. This will introduce the candidate to low pressure steam boilers ensuring they understand how to take boiler samples safely, and the water treatment pre-treatment and chemical programmes used.

WATER TREATMENT HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS	WATER TREATMENT HOT & COLD WATER AND EVAPORATIVE COOLING SYSTEMS	WATER TREATMENT HOT & COLD WATER AND CLOSED SYSTEMS	WATER TREATMENT HOT & COLD WATER AND STEAM BOILER SYSTEMS
LEGIONELLA CONTROL & THE LAW - W201			
LEGIONELLA CAUSES & IMPACTS OF INFECTION - W202			
AN APPRECIATION OF HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS - W203			
WATER TREATMENT CONTROL OF HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS - W204			
TEMPERATURE MONITORING, SAMPLING & INSPECTION OF WATER SYSTEMS - W259			
CLEANING & DISINFECTION OF HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS - W257			
UNDERSTANDING OF WATER CHEMISTRY - W252			
	COOLING WATER CHEMISTRY FOUNDATION - W255	PRACTICAL MONITORING & CONTROL OF WATER QUALITY IN CLOSED SYSTEMS - W276	BOILER WATER CHEMISTRY - W260
	CLEANING & DISINFECTION OF COOLING SYSTEMS - W258		
Q&A WASHUP SESSION AND FINAL EXAM			

To complete each of the pathways the candidate must attend a student led Q&A session where elements of the various courses making up the pathway can be discussed and student's questions answered by an independent, knowledgeable tutor. The afternoon will then consist of the final 2 to 3 hour exam touching on points covered in all of the training building up to the qualification. For some pathways part of this exam may include a practical element.

Based around our existing training courses, our offering has been reviewed and updated to meet the needs of various job types within the industry. Identifying gaps and providing solutions to give a rounded qualification these pathways will ensure that students end with all the relevant knowledge necessary to complete their job effectively.

FAQ

Q Why should I use the WMSoc for my training?

The WMSoc offers independent training delivered by industry recognised tutors. With a focus solely on water you can be assured that the latest information is included in the training courses provided.

Q What benefit will I see from a qualification?

The names of all people achieving the WMSoc Certification will be freely publicised on our website and via our Waterline publication for a period of 3 years. In addition all successful students will receive a digital badge and certificate which they can use to advertise their higher level of knowledge to their customers.

Q What else are WMSoc doing to improve standards?

Being an independent society we aim to raise the standards within the industry and are present on many standards committees. Our aim is to provide a standardised qualification which will drive customer requirements in the future.

Q Will other organisations recognise this qualification?

We will be working with other organisations and regulators to make them aware of this qualification.

Q When are you launching this new qualification?

This new qualification, with the 2 qualifications for Water Treatment and Risk Assessment, will be launched on the 1st January 2022. As additional pathways are identified and content completed these will be added to the offering.

Q Can I qualify for multiple pathways? And if so, how?

Yes, you can qualify for as many pathways as you wish. In order to qualify for multiple pathways within the same section you would need to take any additional courses identified in the pathway maps, and take the additional wash-up and exam session.

Q What if I have already passed the exams listed, can I qualify for the certification?

If you have already taken eligible courses in the past 3 years and passed the exams you will be eligible for the qualification. Simply enrol for the qualification and take any additional modules not already covered. On successful completion of the final exam session module you will be awarded the qualification and added to the website in the same way as any other student.

Q Will you be checking the competence of those certified?

The certification is based around knowledge acquisition via online, classroom and hands-on training which includes checking of student's capabilities. There is no in-field assessment of competence planned for the first instalment of the certification although this is something we are looking at for the future.

Q How much will the qualification cost?

This will depend on the length of the route taken. The cost of £715 includes the wash-up, exam session and website listing for 3 years, in addition to the individual course costs which can be spread over 3 years.

Q. What is meant by accredited training?

Training that has been carried out by an awarding body (such as City & Guilds) or an organisation accredited by an awarding body (such as WMSoc).

Q. Are courses from other providers eligible?

These will be reviewed on a case by case basis, but at a minimum should be City & Guilds, HABC or other recognised training course and evidence of an exam pass will be required. The final exam must be undertaken at WMSoc.

Q. Why is the qualification only valid for 3 years?

WMSoc believe that learning and continuing education are essential for effective water management. As technologies and best practices change it is important to remain up to date with the industry. By proving your continued expertise and knowledge it is possible to renew your qualification and prove your continued dedication to water management.

Q. How can I renew my qualification?

At the end of the 3 year period you may either resit the washup session and exam for your qualification pathway, or provide proof of 24 CPD earned within the 3 year period. This CPD should be from the following sources and certificates of achievement and attendance will be required for scrutiny.

- At least 1 - Attendance at WMSoc event or training courses
- Attendance at WMSoc webinars or online training course
- Attendance at LCA, RSPH, SOPHE, IHEEM, HSE, BSRIA or other recognised industry event or training course with a water focus
- Max 1 - Publication of a technical article in Waterline
- Max 2 - Publication of a technical water related book or white paper
- Max 1 - Presentation at an industry event

Q. What is the cost of renewing my qualification?

The cost will be either the current washup and exam session cost or £330 for those renewing via CPD.

Q. How long do I have to renew my qualification?

A period of 6 months from the end of current qualification will be granted for candidates to renew the qualification. If the exam is not passed, nor CPD provided for scrutiny at least 2 months before the end of this period, the qualification will become invalid. At this point the full set of training and exams will be required as per the initial qualification.

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