State licensure

Sixteen states and two counties use NGWA certification exams to some extent in their well construction/water systems installation licensure programs. Because of the variations between states, you should contact your state’s representative for further details; a list of state contacts can be found here.

You should also know what is required by your state prior to scheduling your exam such as:

- Which exams are required — there may also be an additional exam on state regulations
- What the application requirements are such as age, experience, references, and bonds/insurance
- How much it costs to submit an application
- What the waiting period is to retest if you fail an exam
- What the time limit is between qualifying exams — and the time frame in which they need to be passed.

NGWA contractor certification exams

Water well drilling

- General drilling exam – **Well Drillers**
- Cable tool drilling (exam A/B)
- Air rotary drilling (exam C/D)
- Mud rotary drilling (exam E/F)
- Reverse circulation drilling (exam G)
- Jetting and driving wells (exam H)
- Augering and monitoring (exam M)

One of these for well drillers with General Drilling

Water well pump installation

- Water systems general exam (formerly exam J) – **Pump Installers**
- Water systems < 100 gpm (exam K)
- Water systems > 100 gpm (exam L)

Must take both

Water well specialty category

- Well servicing and maintenance (exam N)

Vertical closed loop drilling

- Vertical closed loop drilling exam
Exam fees

Each exam costs $75, with the exception of the vertical closed loop drilling exam that costs $125, regardless of NGWA membership status. For information on using your exam scores for the NGWA Voluntary Certification Program in addition to your state licensure, please see the certification homepage.

Scheduling the exam

Visit PSI’s Website to schedule your exam, and to find scheduling information, or call PSI at 800 733.9267. If registering over the phone, you will need to advise them you are (1) taking National Ground Water Association's exams, (2) taking the exams for your state license, and (3) which exams you desire to take. PSI website - (https://candidate.psiexams.com/catalog/displayagencylicenses.jsp?catalogID=334)

After your exam

PSI will provide you with your score report upon completion of the exam. You must submit a copy of your score to the licensing body to which you are applying. NGWA does not relay exam scores to individual state agencies.

If you need another copy of your score report, NGWA can reprint them for a fee. Contact the certification coordinator at certification@ngwa.org or by phone at 800 551.7379, or 614 898.7791 if you are outside the United States, for more information.

Contact the state licensing body for information about applications, requirements, and retesting procedures.

States and county using NGWA exams as a component of their licensure

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Bucks County, Pennsylvania
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Mississippi
- Montana
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York (additional registration required in Rockland County)
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- Vermont
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

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