

## FAQ - Landfill Operator Certification

### 1. Why are you requiring Landfill Operator Certification?

*Manitoba Environment and Climate recognizes operator certification will ensure operators are provided information to carry out the duties associated with best landfill operating practices. This includes key functions and processes at landfills, along with basic health and safety issues.*

### 2. Who will provide the landfill operator training?

*Manitoba Environment and Climate is recognizing the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) as the training body. Other training institutions or organizations may be considered upon request.*

### 3. What courses are required?

*The Waste Management Facilities Regulation 37/2016 requires two courses depending on the facility. This includes the Landfill Operations Basics and the Manager of Landfill Operations. Both courses are offered by SWANA.*

### 4. What certification do I need for my Class 1 Landfill Manager? Do the rest of the staff need certification?

*A Class 1 Waste Disposal Ground requires at least one person certified with the Manager of Landfill Operations certificate. This person does not need to be at the landfill at all times as this can be a supervisory role for the landfill (ie someone at the Municipal Office, Manager, etc.)*

*At all times when the landfill is open to the public, at least one operator at the facility must have their Landfill Operations Basics certification or equivalent.*

### 5. Do I need a certified operator at my Class 2 waste disposal ground?

*Yes, any time the facility is open to the public, and there are landfilling operations, ie working on the active area, depositing waste on the active area or covering, compacting or maintaining the active area, at least one person at the facility must have the Landfill Operations Basics certification or equivalent.*

*If only receiving waste, see question 8 below.*

### 6. Do all the staff working at the Class 2 or Class 3 waste disposal ground need certification?

*No. Not all staff are required to have certification. However, at least one person at the facility is required to have certification at all times when the landfill is open to the public and conducting landfilling operations.*

*If only receiving waste, see question 8 below.*

**7. Do I need a certified operator at my Class 3 waste disposal ground?**

*Yes, if there are landfilling operations, ie working on the active area, depositing waste on the active area or covering, compacting or maintaining the active area, at least one person at the facility must have the Landfill Operations Basics certification or equivalent.*

*However, in exceptional circumstances and if requested by the owner of the facility, the director may issue authority to operate to a person whose qualifications do not meet the requirements for the Landfill Operations Basics course.*

**8. On the weekend, we accept waste and recyclables at the transfer bins, but do not have anyone working or disposing waste at the active area. Do we need a certified operator?**

*No. You will not need a certified operator on the weekend if you operate using the transfer bins or a tipping pad. The certified operator is only required when the facility is open to the public and there is landfilling operations, ie working on the active area, depositing waste on the active area or covering, compacting or maintaining the active area. This only applies to Class 2 and 3 WDGs only.*

**9. I have an operator of a Class 3 WDG that has only 2 years until retirement, has worked at the landfill for 20 years, and is concerned about having to take an exam. He is very knowledgeable about the safety and procedures of our landfill. Does he have to write the exam?**

*In exceptional circumstances and if requested by the owner of the facility, the director may issue authority to operate to a person whose qualifications do not meet the requirements for the Landfill Operations Basics course. This issued authority is not transferrable to another facility and will expire five years after it is issued.*

**10. Where do we send operators for training? Can the training be taken online or can the instructors come to our community?**

*The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) will provide training in a variety of locations across Manitoba throughout the calendar year. SWANA is working towards having both the courses and exams available online in the near future. Currently the exams must be written in person.*

**11. Is the certification transferrable?**

*No. The certificate is issued to the individual, not to the company or municipality.*

**12. Will the exam be provided in other languages besides English?**

*No. At this time the exam is only provided in English.*

**13. Will Manitoba Environment and Climate accept any other certificates besides SWANA?**

*Manitoba Environment and Climate will review requests on a case by case basis. Approval may be considered for equivalent course of instruction or an equivalent valid certification that is acceptable to the Director.*

**14. Will funding be available?**

*Decisions regarding the level of funding have not been finalized at this time.*

**15. Who do I contact for more information?**

*For more information regarding landfill operator certification, contact:*

- *Solid Waste Management Coordinator  
Manitoba Environment and Climate  
(204) 945-8321  
[solidwaste@gov.mb.ca](mailto:solidwaste@gov.mb.ca)*
- *Solid Waste Association of North America  
Northern Lights Chapter  
(780) 496-5614  
<https://swananorthernlights.org/contact/>*