

FAQs – Water Audit Validator Certificate

1. What is the Water Audit Validator Certificate?

The Water Audit Validator course is a 3-day program designed to qualify individuals to perform Level 1 water audit validations in California. Water audit validators examine water loss audit inputs to consider the water audit's accuracy and document the sources of uncertainty. Per [Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 7 Water Loss Control & Reporting](#) urban retail water suppliers must submit validated distribution system water audits to the California Department of Water Resources each year. Individuals who successfully complete this course and exam will receive a Water Audit Validator certificate. This certificate is required to validate water audits.

- A. The Water Audit Validator Certificate (and exam) – full course is for those who are new
- B. The Water Audit Validator Renewal (and exam) – workshop is for those who are renewing their current or expired certificate

2. What are the pre-requisites?

The certificate is open to all interested persons including utility staff and consultants. You **MUST HAVE** working knowledge of the water audit methodology (AWWA M36) and experience with the AWWA Free Water Audit Software is recommended. The WAV curriculum assumes that all participants are fluent in water auditing methodology and are proficient with the AWWA Free Water Audit Software, including the Data Validity Grade criteria. The WAV curriculum builds on knowledge within the WAV Training Manual; strong understanding of the content here is critical for a validator's success. Please review the WAV Training Manual to determine if you meet the pre-requisite requirements, found [here](#).

The current pre-requisite class being offered by CA-NV Section, AWWA is "Water Loss Control & Leak Detection Training". Currently being offered being offered multiple times per year, via zoom webinars.

3. How long is the certificate valid?

The certificate is valid for 3 years from the date of the exam passed.

4. What happens if I fail the exam?

There are options to retake just the exam, and we will be in touch with you if this happens.

5. How do I renew my certificate?

To renew your WAV, you must register and attend a WAV Renewal Workshop. Individuals who successfully complete this workshop and pass the workshop quizzes will have met the Water Audit Validator certificate requirements and may renew for another 3-year period.

6. What is the grace period if they didn't renew before the expiration date?

Renewal workshops and exams are offered quarterly to accommodate those who are up for expirations. Renewals & exams should be completed in the quarter prior to the expiration date to keep the certification active and current. The grace period is 6 months from the expiration date.

7. What happens if I go past the grace period and want to renew?

Water Audit Validators with a certificate expired for more than six months, are no longer eligible to renew through the Water Audit Validator Renewal Workshop. You must register for and successfully complete the full 3-day Water Audit Validator Certificate course and pass the exam to obtain a new Water Audit Validator Certificate.

8. If they take the renewal early (ex. Taking it 9/10/24, and it expires 9/23/25) - what date does the certificate term year start/end? Would it be from the date they took the renewal of 9/10/24 or extending the 9/23/25 out of another 3 years?

If someone is taking it early, the term start/end should be from when they take the renewal course. (ex. Taking it 9/10/24, and it expires 9/23/25, the attendee would take the renewal workshop and exam on 6/10/25, the new certificate date start would be 6/10/25 + 3 years for expiration)

9. Can you still perform audits if your certificate expires?

A validated water loss audit report submitted to the California DWR shall include the name and technical qualifications of the person engaged for validation. The California Validator Certification Report Template requires that the validator include their WAV expiration date on the form to show that they are currently technically qualified.

You can still perform an audit, but at the time of report submission, your certificate must be current. To avoid a certificate expiration, you should register for the next WAV Renewal workshop (currently scheduled quarterly) to keep your certificate active.

If the grace periods ends, you will need to take the renewal workshop + exam to get your certificate active again.

10. Where can you find a list of current Water Audit Validator Certified Individuals?

On the CA-NV Section webpage [here](#)

11. Where can I register for a new WAV course certificate or renewal workshop?

On the CA-NV Section webpage [here](#).

Please verify you meet the prerequisite requirements, as you will be unable to receive a refund if you start the course and do not meet those requirements.