



## Owner & Licensed Operator Responsibilities For Operating a Public Water System (Examples of Quality and Quantity Actions & Decisions)

Owner(s) and Licensed Operator(s) are responsible for water quality and quantity related actions and decisions that include but are not limited to:

1. Adjusting chemical feed pumps;
2. Creating and mixing chemical solutions;
3. Adding chemical(s), when needed;
4. Measuring quantities of chemicals in water (e.g. Cl<sub>2</sub> residual);
5. Changes to piping or equipment involved with drinking water treatment or distribution;
6. Pulling well pumps;
7. Disinfecting wells & water systems;
8. Changes to treatment and/or storage;
9. Connecting a new source to the public water system;
10. Resolving drinking water orders (e.g. Boil Water Order or Do Not Drink Order);
11. Reviewing Monthly Operating Reports;
12. Overseeing all sampling (making sure the actual sampler, if it is not the operator, is trained and taking samples properly);
13. Remaining aware of any sample results (e.g. TC positives, Lead Action Level, et. al.);

The oversight of a licensed operator is required for the above listed activities. The failure to do so may subject the owner to a violation for operating without a license.

Owners and licensed operators are both responsible for maintaining regulatory compliance and resolving public water system compliance issues.

Activities 1 through 9 along with the act of physically taking samples can be delegated to non-licensed individuals, using **written** procedures for regular activities, but the licensed operator is still responsible for the oversight of and the results of these activities.

An owner must designate and clarify the specific areas of operator responsibility in contracts with water system operators.

Although a licensed operator is not required to perform all of the above responsibilities, an owner must make the licensed operator aware of any actions or decisions related to water quality and quantity.

For more information, refer to the Maine Drinking Water Program Policy for Administering the Maine Rules Relating to Drinking Water Regarding a Public Water System Operating without a Licensed Operator (DWP0071).