Dear CI Examinee:

Below are some recommendations for how to use the Modular Education Program (MEP) to prepare for the CWS exam.

The Knowledge Base articles are meant as background information. The questions on the exam are more practical than those found in the MEP, however, competency in answering the questions in is a good indicator of your preparation. Pay attention to how the treatment technologies operate, what happens in their cleaning cycles, etc.

Do not get too worried over the basic chemistry. The exam does not ask you to explain atoms and electrons. When reading the Knowledge Base articles and MEP, focus on:

1. Plumbing related topics:
   a. valves
   b. piping materials & characteristics
   c. hangers & supports
   d. pressure loss in distribution systems
   e. safe waste connections (air gap)

2. Water sources and fixture counts
3. Water pressure, water demand
4. Distribution system disinfection
5. Contaminants (turbidity, hardness, iron, manganese, hydrogen sulfide, color, nitrates/sulfates, chlorine, microorganisms, pH)
6. Technologies (ion exchange, filtration, RO, aeration, distillation)
7. Flow and pressure requirements for technologies (service & backwash)
8. Good installation practices
9. Basic electricity and electrical safety
10. Best practices for equipment installation and related, general, plumbing code regulations
11. Cross-Connections/Backflow prevention - You should know what these are and how to guard against them. An excellent reference is the US EPA Cross-Connection Control manual, available on the US EPA’s website.

Overall, the MEP and Knowledge Base are for your reference both in preparation for the exam and for questions you may encounter in the field.

Sincerely,

Tanya Lubner, PhD
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