

A. Purpose

This document outlines Irrigation Certificate requirements for irrigation projects in Saskatchewan.

B. Irrigation Certificate Requirements—Irrigation Projects 10 Acres or Greater

1. Per section 3-1(2)(b) of *The Irrigation Act, 2019*, an Irrigation Certificate is required for land served by an irrigation district that is to be irrigated.
 - a. Irrigation projects located within an irrigation district will receive a water service agreement from the irrigation district to secure water delivery.
2. Per section 3-9(1)(a) of *The Irrigation Act, 2019*, an Irrigation Certificate is required for land not served by an irrigation district that is to be irrigated.
 - a. Irrigation projects located outside of an irrigation district will receive a water allocation from the Crown (Water Security Agency) of intensive, non-intensive median annual availability or non-intensive subject to availability.

C. Irrigation Certificate Requirements—Irrigation Projects Less Than 10 Acres

1. Irrigation projects less than 10 acres in size will have minimal potential to negatively impact soil or water resources and therefore do not require a technical assessment by the Ministry of Agriculture.
2. Irrigation projects of less than 10 acres will not require an Irrigation Certificate as the scale of the project is considered low risk.

D. Technical Support—Irrigation Projects Less Than 10 Acres

1. To qualify for irrigation development support from the ministry, the proposed project should be at least four hectares (10 acres) in size.
2. If an irrigator wishes to develop an irrigation project of less than 10 acres and wants to obtain an Irrigation Certificate, irrigation development support from the ministry will be provided at the ministry's discretion.
3. All applicable fees related to obtaining an Irrigation Certificate will apply.

E. Authority

The following sections of *The Irrigation Act, 2019* (effective March 20, 2020) apply to these guidelines:

- Section 3-1(2)(b) indicates that a person who obtains services from an irrigation district must have an irrigation certificate for the land to be irrigated.
- Section 3-2 (1) indicates every person who intends to irrigate using the prescribed allocation of water shall obtain an Irrigation Certificate with respect to the land to be developed for irrigation.
- Section 3-9(1)(a) indicates no person shall irrigate land in an area not served by an irrigation district without ensuring that the land being irrigated or to be irrigated has been issued an Irrigation Certificate.

The following sections of *The Irrigation Regulations, 2020* (effective March 20, 2020) apply to these guidelines:

- Section 3 indicates “prescribed allocation of water” for the purposes of the definition of “intensive irrigator” in section 1-2 of *the Act*, as an amount equal to or greater than 3 cubic decametres of water per hectare (1 acre-foot of water per acre).
- Section 4 indicates “prescribed allocation of water” for the purposes of subsection 3-2(1) of *the Act*, as an amount equal to or greater than 12,300 cubic metres (10 acre-feet) of water annually.

F. Definitions

District consumer: A person who has an existing water service agreement with an irrigation district to receive irrigation services from the irrigation district.

Intensive irrigator: A person who:

- (a) owns or controls land that receives a prescribed allocation of water from the Crown for irrigation purposes;
- (b) is not restricted as to when the prescribed allocation of water may be applied; and
- (c) does not have an existing water service agreement with an irrigation district with respect to the land mentioned in clause (a).

Irrigation Certificate: An irrigation certificate issued pursuant to section 3-2 of the Act and includes a special irrigation certificate mentioned in section 7-5.

Non-intensive irrigator: A person who:

- (a) owns or controls land that receives **less than** a prescribed allocation (three cubic decametres of water per hectare / one acre-foot of water per acre) of water from the Crown for irrigation purposes;
- (b) does not have an existing water service agreement with an irrigation district with respect to the land mentioned in clause (a).

Prescribed Person: A person other than an intensive irrigator who:

- (a) receives a minimum allocation of 1.5 cubic decametres per hectare (six inches per acre) of water; and
- (b) irrigates a minimum of four hectares (10 acres) of land using a sprinkler irrigation system.

G. General

An Irrigation Certificate confirms land is suitable for irrigation and no damage to the subject land or other lands will be caused by irrigating.

Visit the Ministry of Agriculture [irrigation webpage](#) for more information or contact Crops and Irrigation in Outlook at 306-867-5500.