

Adopt Sep 600 to read as follows:

CHAPTER Sep 600 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

PART Sep 601 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Sep 601.01 Purpose and Scope.

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to:

- (1) Establish minimum standards of practice for conducting septic system evaluations; and
- (2) Provide the public with objective information regarding the condition of the systems and components of the septic system as inspected at the time of the inspection.

(b) This chapter shall apply to every person licensed by the board.

(c) These standards of practice shall be applicable to onsite septic systems, individual residential homes, and commercial properties.

PART Sep 602 DEFINITIONS

Sep 602.01 Definitions. As used in these rules, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

(a) “Approved plans and specifications” means the approved plan, the construction approval, the operational approval, and the maintenance pamphlet, “You and Your Septic Systems”, published by the department of environmental services.

(b) “Bed” means the portion of an effluent disposal area that contains the leach lines, exclusive of any fill extensions.

(c) “Cesspool” means an underground pit into which is discharged raw or partially- treated sewage or other essentially untreated wastes and from which the liquid seeps or leaches into the surround soil. The term includes cesspit and effluent disposal cesspool.

(d) “Commercial” means any use that is not solely residential as defined in Env-Wq 1002.4

(e) “Construction approval” means written approval for construction of a proposed individual sewage disposal system.

(f) “Conventional pipe and stone system” means an individual sewage disposal system in

which effluent is dispersed through small-diameter pipe that is perforated only on the lower half and that lies within a bed of septic stone.

(g) “Deficiency” means the quality or state of being defective or of lacking some necessary quality or element.

(h) “Department of environmental services (DES)” means the New Hampshire department of environmental services, located at 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

(i) “Department staff” means an employee or agent of DES who is authorized by the department to review and discuss preliminary plans for subdivision or ISDS, or both, to advise on modifications, and to approve plans for subdivisions or ISDS, or both, and installations of ISDS for the department.

(j) “Design intent” means a statement of actual bottom elevation of the bed in relation to an established reference elevation on site, in accordance with Env-Wq1003.06(ag).

(k) “Distribution Box (D-Box)” is a box that is designed to insure equal distribution of effluent to the effluent conduits. The bottom of each outlet line from the distribution box shall be the same height within the box.

(l) “Domicile” means that place where an individual has his or her true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment, and to which, whenever he or she is absent, he or she has the intention of returning. An individual might have more than one residence, but has only one domicile.

(m) “Drainage swale” means a vegetated area where waters flow to such a limited extent that neither channels nor wetlands vegetation develop.

(n) “Dry well” means an effluent disposal area constructed as a covered, underground pit with an open-jointed or perforated lining and surrounded with septic stone, into which effluent is discharged for final disposal into the surrounding soil.

(o) “Effluent” means the liquid component of sewage after solids have settled out.

(p) “Effluent disposal area (EDA)” means an area designed for the final disposal of effluent, including the bed and any required fill extensions, in which effluent is dispersed using leach lines or dry wells.

(q) “Expansion” means an increase in the design flow, based on Env-Wq 1008.03, over the existing design flow for an existing structure or an increase in the size of the footprint or ridgeline of an existing or former structure.

(r) "Failure" means the condition produced when a subsurface sewage or waste disposal system does not properly contain or treat sewage or causes the discharge of sewage on the ground surface or directly into surface waters, or the effluent disposal area is located in the

seasonal high groundwater table.

(s) “Free of fines” means free of small particles such as silts or clay.

(t) “Gallons per day (GPD)” means the standard measure of water or wastewater flow in a 24-hour period.

(u) “Grease trap” means a tank or series of tanks into which wastewater that contains grease is discharged, where grease floats to the water’s surface and is retained while the water below is discharged.

(v) “Gray water” means residential wastewater other than from a urinal or a toilet.

(w) “Holding tank” means a sealed tank with no outlet to a dry well or other effluent disposal area and which stores septage or other wastes until the wastes can be pumped out and hauled to an approved disposal site. A holding tank is not an individual sewage disposal system as defined in Env-Wq 1002.42.

(x) Increase the load on a sewage disposal system, as used in RSA 485-A:38, means:

- (1) In an existing residential building, adding bedrooms or converting existing rooms to additional bedrooms;
- (2) Converting from seasonal to full-time use or occupancy, as specified in Env-Wq 1004.16(b);
- (3) Converting from residential use only to residential plus commercial use or commercial use only; or
- (4) Changing or adding to an existing commercial use so as to increase the flow as calculated using Env-Wq 1008.03.

(y) “Individual sewage disposal system (ISDS)” means any wastewater disposal or treatment system, other than a system regulated under Env-Wq 700, which receives sewage or other wastes, or both, including septic tank leach field systems, privies or dry pit toilets, and incinerator-type toilets such as gas-operated, electric, fossil- fueled or any combination thereof. The term does not include “cesspool”.

(z) “Innovative / Alternative waste treatment” as defined in RSA 485-A:2, XXI, includes ISDS that incorporate technology approved by the department pursuant to ENV-Wq 1024.

(aa) “Inspection” means an overview by the Department of Environmental Services (DES) of the effluent disposal system to ensure that the installed system is in compliance with the approved plans and specification.

(ab) “Installation” means to establish or construct an effluent disposal system in an

indicated place.

(ac) “Invert” means the bottom of any structure. The invert of a pipe is the bottom of the pipe.

(ad) “Large disposal system” means an individual sewage disposal system which is designed for a flow of more than 2,500 gallons of sewage per day.

(ae) “Leach bed” means an effluent disposal area constructed of stone and pipe. In many areas, “leach field” means any type of EDA, as a generic term.

(af) “Leach line” means the component of an individual sewage disposal system, other than a dry well, which actually disperses effluent. A leach line can be a large- diameter graveless pipe, a chamber, a small-diameter perforated pipe, or some other technology approved pursuant to Env-Wq 1024.

(ag) “Manufactured housing park (MHP)” means as defined in RSA 205-A:1,II, namely “any parcel of land under single or common ownership or control which contains, or is designed, laid out or adapted to accommodate 2 or more manufactured houses.” Manufactured Housing Park does not include premises used solely for storage or display manufactured housing.

(ah) “Operational approval” means written approval to cover and use or operate the constructed individual sewage disposal system, which is issued only after inspection by department staff under RSA 485-A:29, I.

(ai) “Permitted designer” means an individual who holds a current authorization under RSA 483-A:35,I, to design individual sewage disposal systems.

(aj) “Permitted installer” means an individual who holds a current authorization under RSA 483-A:36, I, to install individual sewage disposal system.

(ak) “Recreational campground“ means “a parcel of land on which 2 or more campsites are occupied or are intended for temporary occupancy for recreational dwelling purposes only, and not for permanent year-round residency, excluding recreation camps as defined in RSA 485-A:23.”

(al) “Septic tank” means a settling unit designed to remove substantially all settle able solids.

(am) “Small disposal system” means an individual sewage disposal system, which disposes up the and including 2500 gallons of sewage per day.

(an) “Standard dimension ratio (SDR)” means the ratio of pipe diameter to pipe wall thickness.

(ao) “Surface water of the state” means “perennial and seasonal streams, lakes, ponds and

tidal waters within the jurisdiction of the state, including all streams, lakes, or ponds bordering on the state, marshes, water courses, and other bodies of water, natural or artificial.”

(ap) “Trench” means an effluent disposal system in which the leach lines are separated by a specific amount of soil. Most trench EDAs are constructed of stone and pipe, but other EDA components may be used in trench configuration.

(aq) “Trench system” means an individual sewage disposal system in which the leach lines are separated by a vertical barrier of soil.

(ar) “Watercourse” means a channel providing for the conveyance of water, whether natural or artificial, which is scoured, indicating periods of concentrated flow, and does not include drainage swales and areas of poorly drained soils as defined in Env-Wq 1002.63 in which no scour channel exists.

(as) “Wetland” means “wetlands” as defined in RSA 482-A:2, X, namely, “an area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal conditions does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.” Wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

PART Sep 603 SEPTIC SYSTEM EVALUATION REPORT REQUIREMENTS

Sep 603.01 Minimum Requirements for Septic System Evaluation Reports. Reports prepared by licensees pursuant to this chapter shall, at a minimum, contain the following information:

- (a) The following information available off-site, provided by the owner or agent, if available prior to inspection:
 - (1) Property location, including street address, tax map number, and lot number;
 - (2) Owners’ name;
 - (3) Research tax card, DES one-stop, town files;
 - (4) Type of use, whether residential or commercial;
 - (5) Current use or vacant building;
 - (6) State approval and plans;
 - (7) Year the building was constructed;
 - (8) Year the septic system was installed;

- (9) Whether a garbage disposal is present;
 - (10) Whether a hot tub is present;
 - (11) Any water system conditioners, backwashed into EDA;
 - (12) Identification of basement bathrooms with injector pumps; and
 - (13) Pumping records if known;
- (b) The following information obtained from the on-site evaluation: If determinable or provided by the owner or agent.
- (1) Date of inspection;
 - (2) Whether the site differs from existing plans and town or state information;
 - (3) Type of system found;
 - (4) When digging, what was found, how many holes;
 - (5) Information relative to root infiltration;
 - (6) The approximate size of the system;
 - (7) Current weather conditions;
 - (8) Information relative to any innovative technology used;
 - (9) Whether the D-Box-was evaluated;
 - (10) Condition of the system;
 - (11) Type of system;
 - (12) The following information concerning the septic tank:
 - a. The estimated size;
 - b. The size and type;
 - c. Pumping schedule from owner;
 - d. Whether baffles present;

- e. Whether the tank was pumped at time of inspection;
 - f. Liquid levels;
 - g. Scum and sludge depths;
 - h. Tank condition; and
 - i. Tank accessibility;
- (13) Whether there is a pump station present and, if so:
- a. The size of the pump;
 - b. Whether the pump is operational;
 - c. Whether any alarms are present;
- (14) Whether there is a municipal or onsite well and, for onsite wells, the well radius;
- (15) Overall site condition, as evidenced by photos, sketches, or state approved septic plan(s); and
- (16) A notation if no field is located;
- (17) Proprietary standards;
- (a) evaluations of proprietary systems shall be based on manufacturer standards
 - (b) evaluator is not to make comments on the life of the system.
- (c) The evaluator's certification number;
- (d) A report of those systems and components that, in the professional opinion of the inspector, are not functioning properly, significantly deficient, unsafe, or near the end of their service lives; and
- (e) Any recommendations to correct, or monitor for future correction, deficiencies reported in Sep 603.01(b) or items needing further evaluation.

PART Sep 604 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Sep 604.01 Standards of Practice.

- (a) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude septic system evaluators from providing other

inspection services or including, as part of their evaluation, systems and components in addition to those required in Sep 603.01(a).

- (b) Evaluators shall not exclude any systems or components listed in Sep 603 from the evaluation if requested by the client.
- (c) Probing shall not be required:
 - (1) When doing so would damage any finished surface; or
 - (2) Where no deterioration is visible or presumed to exist.
- (d) The evaluator shall not have to determine methods or materials necessary to correct any deficiencies noted in the evaluation report.
- (e) The evaluator shall not project the cost(s) of repair(s) for any deficiency noted in the evaluation report.
- (f) The evaluator shall not provide any engineering or design services unless qualified pursuant to RSA 310-A:201, IV.
- (g) The evaluator shall not be required to enter any area if, in the opinion of the evaluator, entry into such area:
 - (1) Is likely to be dangerous to the inspector or other persons; or
 - (2) Will cause damage the property, its systems, or components.

APPENDIX

Rule	Statute Implemented
Sep 601.01	RSA 310-A:207, I(f); RSA 310-A:204
Sep 602.01	RSA 310-A:207, I(f); RSA 310-A:204
Sep 603.01	RSA 310-A:207, I(f); RSA 310-A:204
Sep 604.01	RSA 310-A:207, I(f); RSA 310-A:204