

ARIZONA

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Arizona Administrative Code
Title 18, Chapter 9, Articles 1 and 3
November 12, 2005

http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_18/18-09.pdf

New state regulations for Arizona became effective November 12, 2005.

The Arizona rule for onsite wastewater treatment facilities is a component of the State Aquifer Protection Permit program. Most wastewater facilities with a design flow less than 24,000 gallons per day must comply with the administrative, design, installation and operational requirements of a performance-based general permit rule. Under this general permit, ADEQ issues a Construction Authorization after the review of the site evaluation and design documents, and issues a Discharge Authorization after satisfactory construction. Upon issuance of the Discharge Authorization, the owner of a general permitted onsite system may legally discharge (operate) under the general permit, provided the onsite facility is operated and maintained in compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permit rule.

Performance for many treatment technologies, including conventional septic systems and alternative systems either with or without total nitrogen reduction, is specified for each technology covered by the rule by test-justified values at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/listpro.pdf> .

The performance-based general permit regulatory approach, which utilizes site evaluation and design algorithms for each installation, allows simplified compliance evaluation for each operating facility. This is accomplished by an inspection of observable site conditions (such as evidence of a changed dwelling, facility tampering, inadequate maintenance or system malfunction), and maintenance records as required by the general

permit rule. This approach is more cost-effective because discharge sampling is not required for a compliance determination.

The updated rule also establishes (a) the process for designating a Nitrogen Management Area, (b) total nitrogen disposal density limitations, (c) expansion for a the transfer inspection program to cover new and old systems, and (d) definitions for types of repairs that require a new application.

All proprietary treatment processes must be listed pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code R18-9-A309(E), except for septic tanks and technologies not covered by 18 A.A.C. 9, Article 3, Part E. The current list is periodically updated and can be found at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/listpro.pdf>

It is periodically updated.

Arizona code does not recognize management programs/contracts or management districts to monitor and maintain onsite systems or individual septic disposal systems within the state. There currently are no plans to implement these systems.

In the State of Arizona, onsite professionals are not required to be certified however a site investigator must be qualified pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A310(H). A Registered Engineer, Geologist, or Sanitarian may prepare a sealed site investigation report. Others who have successfully completed training are recognized as qualifying by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The currently recognized training program has a biennial refresher requirement.

A site investigation is required by rule for each installation to establish the soil absorption capabilities and the soil treatment potential using a zone of unsaturated flow beneath a dispersal works. The rule includes provisions for performance-based system selection whenever the site investigation reveals limitations which preclude installation of a conventional septic system. The performance-based rule includes characterizing raw sewage flow and strength and assigns default performance for many treatment and disposal technologies. The rule requires system design using: (a) soil properties and wastewater transport capabilities at the discharge site; and (b) performance algorithms for treated wastewater quality, wastewater loading rates, and soil treatment potential.

Site evaluations are performed by a qualified person to provide sufficient data to satisfy A.A.C. R18-9-A310 (B) prior to an onsite system being installed. The state requires both surface and subsurface evaluations at each site under consideration for an on-site system soil-absorption disposal works. Surface evaluations are most often performed pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A310(C) (1) using ASTM 5879. The presence or absence of any limiting condition specified in A.A.C. R18-9-A310(C) (2) (a) through (f) must be reported.

Subsurface evaluations are performed pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A310(D)(3) using, as appropriate, the seepage pit performance test pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A310(G), the

percolation test pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A310(F) or soil characterization by ASTM methods pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A310(E). The presence or absence of any limiting condition specified in A.A.C. R18-9-A310 (D) (2) (a) through (f) must be reported. A statewide site investigation report form must be used by all agencies in Arizona for all applications submitted for a new system installation, system expansion and any repair specified in A.A.C. R18-9-A309(A)(9)(b)(i) through (ix). This form is at: <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/TBD> .

The owner of an on-site wastewater treatment facility is required to have an inspection performed before a change of property ownership pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A316(B). All other inspections are determined by the facility owner as appropriate or as required by the O&M manual approved at the time of the issuance of the general permit Discharge Authorization pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A301(D)(2)(c). An inspector performing a transfer of ownership inspection must meet the qualifications specified in A.A.C. R18-9-A316(B)(1) through A.A.C. R18-9-A316(B)(3)(f). In all cases, an operational inspection is performed by a private provider at a rate established by the provider. Regulators do not provide design services for new applications or repairs, or inspection services for other than a pending application or to respond to a complaint.

The State of Arizona has sole authority to manage the discharge of pollutants to the waters of the state, including aquifers, excluding Indian Reservations. No county or other local jurisdiction has independent authority to issue permits for the discharge of pollutants in Arizona. The State of Arizona may delegate certain functions and duties to be performed by local agencies pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes 49-107A. Portions of the on-site wastewater treatment facilities permitting and compliance program are delegated to all 15 counties.

The number of permits issued for new construction, are tracked by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Permits for repair of an existing system or for upgrade of modification are not tracked by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; however, this information can be obtained by contacting each county at the website listed below:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/cohealth.pdf>

For additional information please contact:

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The general permit program authorizes only treatment technologies authorized in rule 18 A.A.C. 9, Article 3, Part E that have appropriate data collected and analyzed and

compiled by a qualified, independent third party. Experimental and less proven treatment and wastewater dispersion technologies may be permitted under the individual permit program as a temporary permit pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A210.

In the State of Arizona, State Revolving Funds are not available to assist homeowners for the repair of a failing or malfunctioning system; replacement of failing or malfunctioning system or for; new construction of onsite wastewater treatment systems.

Information for onsite training programs within the State of Arizona is available at the following URL's:

<http://ag.arizona.edu/waterquality/onsite/#WorkshopSchedule>
<http://www.cet.nau.edu/Projects/WDP/courses.html>

Currently, there are no ongoing onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects in the State of Arizona.