



## **MASSACHUSETTS**

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<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/wastewat.htm>

The State Environmental Code Title 5:  
Minimum Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage  
310 CMR 15.00  
April 21, 2006

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/regulations/310cmr15.pdf>

Title 5 Q & A: General Information  
April 21, 2006

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/wastewater/t5regsum.pdf>

As of March 2006 regulations for the State of Massachusetts were under revision and expected to be in effect in April 2006.

A complete list of technologies approved for use in Massachusetts, including the date of approval, is provided on the Web site (above). Innovative technology proponents must submit applications in accordance with 310 CMR 15.280-289 Performance based codes are followed for recirculating sand filters or equivalent alternative technology. Under circumstances where a technology not listed within Massachusetts' code is desired, a site specific pilot must be approved by the Department.

In Massachusetts, all alternative systems must have maintenance contracts. The State is also trying to interest communities and counties in forming management districts. Management programs are currently in operation in Massachusetts, please contact the Barnstable County Health Department for more information on these programs.

Site evaluations are conducted by Professional Engineers and Registered Sanitarians prior to an onsite system being installed. The designer of the onsite system is responsible for

conducting the site evaluation. Both percolation tests and soil characterization are required as part of the site evaluation. Permits are issued mainly at the local level while the State can become involved for variances and where certain innovative systems are desired.

A Title 5 Inspector performs inspections upon request of the individual homeowner. Cost of the inspection varies.

Permits are issued at the local level. Permits are not tracked within the state for: new construction, repair of existing system, or an upgrade or modification to an existing system.

Alternative/experimental/innovative technologies are permitted and do require a different permit compared to those for standard systems.

In Massachusetts, SRF monies can be used to assist homeowners for: the repair of a failing or malfunctioning system, the replacement of a failing or malfunctioning system, or the new construction of an onsite wastewater treatment system.

Onsite Training Programs are available in Massachusetts. Please contact Tom Groves of NEInterstate. Demonstrations and/or research that is currently ongoing within the State can be found by contacting George Heufelder.