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Title 30 Texas Administration Code Chapter 285 Onsite Sewage Facilities
Updated January 2005

Chapter 30 Subchapter "A" and "G" Licenses and Responsibilities
Updated January 2005

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=285](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=285)

The Regulations for the State of Texas were last updated on January, 2005. Currently, certification of individuals providing maintenance for on-site systems and rules allowing homeowners to perform their own maintenance are being looked at for revision. These revisions are to become effective in September, 2006.

The Regulations for the State of Texas are performance based for secondary treatment and spray irrigation. For technology(ies) not listed in the current State Code, planning materials for non-standard systems (one of a kind) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Proprietary systems (systems to be marketed with exclusive legal rights of the manufacturer or designer) must be tested by NSF, if applicable, or an independent third party for a period of two years and approval from the executive director must be obtained. Please refer to 30 TAC Chapter 285.32(c) for detailed information.

State Code requires management programs for any system that has been permitted to maintain secondary quality effluent. These systems must have an ongoing maintenance contract with a valid maintenance company. Local entities have the authority to require more stringent requirements than state rules, but they must be based on a greater environmental protection.

The State of Texas does require onsite professionals to be certified. Those professionals requiring certification are:

- Installer I
- Installer II
- Site Evaluator
- Designated Representative (runs the local programs)

These certifications are renewable.

Regular inspections are not required by the State for investigating the performance and operation, of onsite systems after initial construction. The homeowner may seek an inspection from whichever source they choose to pay. Periodic inspections are required by Texas for investigating the performance and operation of any systems where secondary quality effluent is required. Also, periodic inspections are required with any system requiring a maintenance contract. Certification of inspectors is required. There is a 3-day training course and a test that must be successfully completed for certification. Site evaluations before an onsite system can be installed or approved are conducted by certified site evaluators, who must also successfully complete a training course and test before conducting site any evaluations. Percolation tests and soil characterization tests are required as part of the site evaluation. The State of Texas also relies on the USDA textural analysis for site evaluations.

Permits are issued for construction of new, repair of existing system, and for the upgrade of modification of onsite systems. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality only keeps track of permits issued for new construction. Different permits are not required for alternative/experimental/innovative technologies. A testing protocol is addressed in Texas rules. If an experimental system is allowed, the homeowner must be told that this is an experimental system prior to installation. If the system fails, it will be replaced by the responsible party. All treatment systems must be tested under NSF Standard 40 criteria. Other components may be tested by a third party (chambers, drip, graveless pipe, etc.).

Funding does not exist to assist homeowners either repairing or replacing failing systems or installing new ones. There are also no revolving loan funds or other financial assistance available for homeowners.

For information regarding onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects please contact Mr. Bruce Lesikar with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at 1-800-824-7303.

Access information on onsite training programs available throughout the State at this website: http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/enforcement/csd/ics/ossf_ceu.html.