

WISCONSIN

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<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/commerce/>

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems February 2004

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/Code/comm/comm081.html>

As of March 2006, onsite wastewater regulations for the State of Wisconsin were current and in effect with no planned revisions reported. To access the full Wisconsin Code, please use the above URL.

The State's code includes performance requirements for influent, effluent, particle size (1/8"), and freezing issues. A product review process exists that allows voluntary submittal of products and technologies not listed within code for review and approval. Reference Chapter Comm. 84, Wis. Adm. Code for information on this process.

Wisconsin State Code requires management programs/contracts or districts to monitor and maintain onsite systems or individual liquid waste systems. All onsite systems approved after July 1, 2000, must include a management plan that lists maintenance requirements. Maintenance contracts are required if service, inspection, or maintenance is required more than once a year by the system designer or component manufacturer stipulation(s). Evidence of this contract must be recorded with the deed.

The State does require onsite professionals to be certified; certifications include: Certified Soil Testers, Licensed Plumbers (Installers), Certified Inspectors, and Registered Maintainers. Certifications are renewable and subject to Continuing Education requirements. Soil/site evaluations are conducted by private “Certified Soil Testers” and work can be verified by State and local regulators. Soil characterization is required as part of the site evaluation process; percolation tests were eliminated in 1994. Certified Soil Testers conduct the soil/site evaluation, prepare a report and submit it to the county. The report is used by the designer/installer to prepare system designs. The site/soil evaluation can be verified by state/local regulators.

If a status check is requested at the time of real estate transfer for the onsite system, anyone can do the inspection depending on what the lending institute desires as this is currently an unregulated activity. Costs for the inspection vary.

State Sanitary Permits are issued by counties that are agents for the State; permits are issued by the department for state-owned facilities. Permits issued state-wide for new construction and the upgrade or modification to an existing system are tracked; however, permits are not tracked for the repair of existing systems. Please contact Mr. Kaminski (above) for more information.

The review process for experimental technologies not listed in Wisconsin Code is more robust; however, the permit is the same as those issued for standard systems.

At this time, SRF monies are not available to assist individual homeowners to: repair a failing or malfunctioning system; replace a failing or malfunctioning system; or to construct a new onsite wastewater treatment system. SRF monies are handled by the Department of Natural Resources and inquiries regarding this subject should be directed to this department by calling (608) 266-2621 (main line).

A variety of Onsite Training Programs are available throughout the State for all credentialed individuals. Programs range from Code Update courses to Specialized Training in soils, designs, and inspection. Please contact Mr. Kaminski (above) for further information. There are currently no demonstration and/or research projects ongoing in the State of Wisconsin.