



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES &
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF WATER
89 KINGS HIGHWAY
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

TO: All licensed Class H Inspectors

FROM: Groundwater Discharges Section (GWDS)

SUBJECT: Class H Inspection Guidelines

DATE: August 6, 2015

The GWDS met on July 21, 2015 to further clarify Class H Inspection guidelines. As a result of this meeting, a list of key foundational concepts delineated below was developed in an endeavor to resolve many of the conflicting and sometimes ambiguous interpretations that have surfaced regarding the Class H Inspection. These concepts should guide you as the professional licensee in the field to make your final system determinations. The key guidelines are as follows:

1. If a system was constructed in accordance with DNREC regulations in place **at the time of system construction** and the system functions properly and does **not** contain regulatory prohibited elements (e.g., cesspool, seepage pits, single compartment septic tank, metal tanks or distribution boxes), this system is satisfactory and no further action needs to occur;
2. If a system does not function properly or a manufactured component needs repair and/or replacement, these actions must be governed by the regulations in place at the time that the issue is discovered (inspection). In this case, all manufactured components must then be brought up to current Regulations requirements (i.e. filter and risers, 1,000 gallon, 2 compartment septic tank, dosing tank). If drainfield is satisfactory then no further action needs to occur;
3. **System = Manufactured components (septic tank, dosing chamber or distribution box) + drainfield;**
4. If the system was installed prior to 1985 and there is an issue with a component, more than likely drainfield sizing may be inadequate too. In this situation, the GWDS recommends, if there are no obvious signs of malfunction, the drainfield should be given a satisfactory with concerns rating; however, if the licensee decides to give a satisfactory, at a minimum, it must be noted in the comments section that the system was installed prior to 1985 and may not meet the sizing criteria of current Regulations;

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5. Water softener regeneration water is not allowed to be discharged into any portion of the on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system (see section 3.31.4);
6. Include comments for all satisfactory with concerns and unsatisfactory ratings in the comments section as stated on the inspection form in Exhibit A of the Regulations.

The GWDS believes that the above guidelines provide clarity to some of the many questions regarding Class H inspections. GWDS staff is available for your questions and concerns; however, staff is only providing guidance to assist you in making your final determinations. You are the professionals in the field and we expect you to perform your duties as required as a licensee commensurate with your knowledge and expertise in the on-site industry.

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