

Virginia Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals Guidance Document
Effective Date: June 21, 2011

Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals Interpretations and Policies

18VAC160-20-74. License required.

June 24, 2009 Onsite Sewage System Installers

The requirement to possess the onsite sewage system installer license shall be limited to one individual who is employed full-time by the company which signed the installation contract and who shall be responsible for all activities of that contract's onsite sewage system installation.

December 2, 2009 Onsite Sewage System Operators (Septic Pumpers)

An onsite sewage system operator license is required for pumping out conventional and alternative onsite sewage systems.

March 24, 2010 Onsite Sewage System Operators (Septic Pumpers)

An onsite sewage system operator license is not required for pumping out holding tanks at waste facilities, grease traps, portable restrooms, etc. that are not components of an onsite sewage system.

December 9, 2010 Conventional Onsite Sewage System Operators (Septic Pumpers)

Conventional septic tanks must have a licensed conventional onsite sewage system operator responsible for the actions of the individual or individuals pumping out the septic tank. The licensed conventional onsite sewage system operator is not required to be present when the septic tank is pumped out, but is responsible for the actions of the unlicensed individual actually pumping out the septic tank. The individual actually pumping out the septic tank need not be a licensed conventional onsite sewage system operator, but must be working under the supervision of a licensed conventional onsite sewage system operator who shall be responsible for the unlicensed person's actions.

April 12, 2011 Alternative Onsite Sewage System Operators (Septic Pumpers)

Alternative septic tanks must have a licensed alternative onsite sewage system operator responsible for the actions of the individual or individuals pumping out the septic tank. The licensed alternative onsite sewage system operator is not required to be present when the septic tank is pumped out, but is responsible for the actions of the unlicensed individual actually pumping out the septic tank. The individual actually pumping out the septic tank need not be a licensed alternative onsite sewage

system operator, but must be working under the supervision of a licensed alternative onsite sewage system operator who shall be responsible for the unlicensed person's actions, as related to pumping the septic tank.

April 12, 2011 Onsite Sewage System Inspections and Evaluations for Property Transfers

The Board's regulations are silent on inspections and evaluations for property transfers. Consequently, the Board has no authority to regulate inspections or evaluations for property transfers. The Board regulates onsite sewage system professionals. If work performed during an inspection or evaluation for the transfer of property requires a licensed individual to perform the work, pursuant to the Board's regulations, then the individual performing the work must be appropriately licensed.

September 27, 2011 Onsite Soil Evaluators

If a licensed onsite soil evaluator has a direct employer-employee relationship or a written contract with an unlicensed individual, the unlicensed individual may perform soil evaluation tasks without the licensed onsite soil evaluator being present. The licensed onsite soil evaluator will be responsible for the unlicensed individual's compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The Board suggests that both the licensed onsite soil evaluator and the unlicensed individual, who performed the onsite soil evaluator tasks, sign the certification statements.

September 27, 2011 Onsite Sewage System Installers

A licensed alternative onsite sewage system installer is required for the installation of non-discharging onsite sewage systems permitted by VDH, regardless of the size of the non-discharging onsite sewage system. The licensed alternative onsite sewage system installer must also be a licensed contractor or work for a licensed contractor who has the SDS specialty on his contractor's license. Depending on the construction and installation plans of the non-discharging onsite sewage systems (e.g., the plan includes a pumping station), the licensed contractor may be required by the Virginia Board for Contractors to have the H/H classification in addition to the SDS specialty.

18VAC160-20-97. Qualifications for licensure - onsite sewage system installers.

December 2, 2009 Onsite Sewage System Installers (Experience Requirement)

In 18VAC160-20-84 and 18VAC160-20-97 of the Board's regulations, an applicant for an interim or regular onsite sewage system installer license must provide the Board with verification of the requisite amount of experience installing conventional or alternative onsite sewage systems (as appropriate). The SDS specialty must also be valid on the contractor firm's license of which the applicant is either a member of responsible management or is an employee of at the time of

application for his individual installer license. If the applicant can document the requisite installation experience and demonstrate that the firm's contractor license is current with the SDS specialty, then he shall satisfy the installer license requirements of 18VAC160-20-84 and 18VAC160-20-97 of the Board's regulations specific to SDS contractors.

18VAC160-20-98. Qualifications for licensure - onsite sewage system operators.

April 12, 2011 Licensed Interim Alternative Onsite Sewage System Operators – Sole Proprietors (Experience Requirement)

In 18VAC160-20-98 of the Board's regulations, an applicant for an alternative onsite sewage system operator license must provide verification of the required amount of experience working under the direct supervision of an interim alternative onsite sewage system operator licensee or an alternative onsite sewage system operator licensee. A licensed interim alternative onsite sewage system operator who is self-employed (sole proprietor) and has met all other eligibility requirements (education and months of full-time experience) can be approved to sit for the alternative onsite sewage system operator examination provided that verification of the individual's work experience is received from an independent, third-party who has first-hand knowledge of the licensed interim alternative onsite sewage system operator's experience.

April 12, 2011 Onsite Sewage System Operator-in-training

A conventional or alternative onsite sewage system operator-in-training (unlicensed individual) is able to perform any duty allowed by the licensed conventional or alternative onsite sewage system operator who undertakes supervision of the operator-in-training. The licensed conventional or alternative onsite sewage system operator is not required to be present when the operator-in-training performs his work duties; however, the licensed onsite sewage system operator shall be responsible for the actions of the operator-in-training and for ensuring full compliance with the Board's regulations.