



**Alberta Onsite Wastewater
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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ONSITE INFORMER



Standard of Practice Adopted by Order In Council

The 2009 Standard of Practice for Private Sewage Systems (SOP) was signed into legislation by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

Copies of the SOP are available for shipping through the AOWMA office upon request.

In order to address the transitional period between the implementation of the new SOP and the phasing out of the 1999 version, Alberta Municipal Affairs has issued a Standata which may be viewed at http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/cp_private_sewage_standata.cfm.

The Standata states that the 1999 SOP may still be used for permit applications submitted to a Safety Codes Officer or other authorized designate prior to December 5, 2009.

Code update training is currently being planned and members will be notified as details become available.

CSA B65, National Installation Code for Decentralized Wastewater Systems Now Available for Public Review

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is seeking industry input on a draft national installation code. The CSA B65 national installation code for decentralized wastewater systems can be downloaded at https://review.csa.ca/opr/opr_list.asp. Alternatively, it can be accessed through the CSA website at www.csa.ca under the public review link on the homepage.

Comments are to be submitted no later than Wednesday, December 30, 2009 using the template available online entitled Public Review Comment Template, B65.doc.

Sincerely,

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Invitation for Public
Review of CSA B65
National Code

Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association

Standardized Permitting Form

AOWMA and Alberta Municipal Affairs are continuing to work on an appendix to the permit application form for the construction of private wastewater systems. This document will detail the site evaluation design requirements that are outlined in the 2009 SOP, and serve as a guide to help ensure that full and proper permits are submitted.

The form is designed to ensure that only trained and certified onsite wastewater professionals will have the knowledge and understanding required to complete the application. This will help discourage homeowners from attempting to pull a permit.

It is anticipated that once the document has been finalized, members will be able to obtain the form from the AOWMA on compact disc or through a web link. Contractors will be able to customize the form by adding supplementary information, such as computer generated drawings and company logos.

The form should be available by the 2010 installation season.

Jurisprudence Examinations Now Available

The Jurisprudence Examination is now available through the AOWMA for those installers from other jurisdictions wishing to apply for Alberta certification.

Candidates from outside the province with Alberta certification equivalencies must apply and pay a fee to be certified here. These professionals should contact the AOWMA for the application form and to make fee payment arrangements. Upon receipt of the completed application form, candidates will be provided with a copy of the 2009 Alberta SOP, the Permit Regulation, the Private Sewage Disposal Regulation, the Safety Codes Act and a copy of the examination. The exam can be written offsite.

Upon completion of the open book examination, candidates will return the examination to the AOWMA for marking. If the candidate passes the exam, a letter of completion will be provided which the candidate will submit along with other required documents to Alberta Municipal Affairs. Providing that all conditions are met, the department will issue the candidate with an Alberta certification ticket.

More information on this process can be obtained from the AOWMA office or from Alberta Municipal Affairs Safety Services.

Confined Space Entry Reminder

Installers are reminded that entering a confined space is extremely dangerous and should only be attempted by trained personnel who are appropriately outfitted with proper hazmat gear. Even when properly equipped, no one should enter a tank unless someone is present to affect a rescue if necessary.

Septic tanks contain potentially lethal gases which can be fatal to those who have not taken appropriate training and precautions.

Several companies offer training in confined space entry. Contact the AOWMA office for a list of training agencies in your area.

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Installer Training Program

The winter training schedule for the Installer Training Program is now being organized. The AOWMA is considering the implementation of a prerequisite to the current training component along with an added soils and site evaluation field day. These components are dependent upon program funding and potential changes to provincial certification standards.

The changes are being considered to reflect a changing training demographic. Those who are new to the industry do not have any background in private sewage therefore more introductory and hands-on courses would be of value to them.

With the release of the 2009 SOP, a solid grounding in site and soil evaluation techniques is mandatory. The field day helps to reinforce the classroom learning provided in the Installer Training Program. Those who take classroom training during the winter months must take a field course as soon as outdoor conditions allow.

It is anticipated that the new introductory course and field day component could be in place prior to the 2010 installation season.

2010 Convention and Trade Show

Registration packages for the 2010 Trade Show have been mailed. If your company has not received a package and would like to participate in the trade show, please contact the AOWMA office.

Information for the Trade Show is also available online at www.aowma.com

Delegate packages for the convention will be mailed out over the next couple of weeks. The convention program promises to provide valuable information for all stakeholders in the on-site wastewater community.

Delegates will be able to choose from a variety of presentations including information on land use planning as it impacts the onsite wastewater industry, onsite wastewater systems for environmentally sensitive areas, standardized permitting form and the permit process under the new SOP, cluster systems as a viable solution for higher density housing in rural areas, onsite wastewater as a sustainable solution in rural areas, onsite wastewater management systems, pumps sizing and controls, basic and complex system design techniques, model process for subdivision development, how to develop an occupational health and safety program, final research results from the at-grade project and other valuable and timely presentations.

At-Grade Research at Fish Creek

The final research on the Alberta At-Grade has been completed and findings and recommendations will be presented at convention. This report is the culmination of two years of research at the Fish Creek site and three years of follow-up presentations at convention.

Installers who have utilized the At-Grade Guideline to install At-Grade Systems during the past two install seasons are asked for their input on the installation process.

Feedback from the installation community will be collated and weighed with the scientific results to ensure that the guideline addresses any issues of concern while providing a scientifically proven treatment and dispersal method.

A questionnaire for those wishing to submit comments is on the back of this newsletter.

Upcoming Training

Edmonton

January 6, 7 & 8 Days 1–3

January 19, 20 & 21 Days 4–6

SOP Update Training

Dates TBA

Mark your calendars!

The 2010 Convention

and Trade Show will

take place in Edmonton

on February 4, 5 & 6th

Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association

At-Grade Questionnaire

If you have installed At-Grade Systems utilizing the At-Grade Guideline, we want to hear from you. Please take the time to fill out this survey and fax it in to help us ensure that the guideline is scientifically sound while meeting contractors' practical considerations.

Name _____

Number of At-Grades Installed in 2009 _____

Regions where At-Grades were installed _____

Type of erosion cover used:

- Wood chip Berm matting
 Coconut matting Other _____

Were systems installed in treed areas? Yes No

Did you use the worksheets provided with the At-Grade Guideline? Yes No

Did you find the worksheets in the guideline helpful? Yes No

Comments or concerns _____

If more space for comments is required, please outline in a letter format and fax it in along with the survey.

Fax this form to: 780.486.7414

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