



Authorized Persons Under the Sewerage System Regulation

Introduction

There are two types of authorized persons under the [Sewerage System Regulation](#) (SSR): “registered onsite wastewater practitioners” and “professionals.” Registered onsite wastewater practitioners (ROWP) are limited to construction, maintenance and supervision of Type 1 and 2 systems, whereas professionals are authorized for Type 3 systems, as well. As a result, it is important to be able to determine if a person meets the definition of a “professional” in section 7(3) of the SSR.

What is the Applicable Legislation?

The relevant section of the Sewerage System Regulation is as follows:

“Authorized persons”

7 (1) A person is qualified to act as a registered onsite wastewater practitioner if the person

(a) has successfully completed a post-secondary training program through

(i) an organization recognized by the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia as offering sewerage system training programs that provide an applicant with the qualifications required for registration under the [Professional Governance Act](#), or

(ii) an institution that

(A) is designated, registered or accredited under an enactment of Canada or any province, except British Columbia, to offer post-secondary education, and

(B) includes, as part of its curriculum, training in soil analysis and sewerage system construction and maintenance, and

(b) holds a registration certificate.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a person who does not meet the educational requirements of that subsection is qualified to act as a registered onsite wastewater practitioner if the person

(a) demonstrates to the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia that the person is competent to construct and maintain a sewerage system that uses a treatment method classified as Type 1 or Type 2, and

(b) holds a registration certificate.

(3) A person is qualified to act as a professional if the person

(a) has, through education or experience, training in soil analysis and sewerage system construction and maintenance, and

(b) is registered as a fully trained and practising member of a professional association that

(i) is statutorily recognized in British Columbia, and

(ii) has, as its mandate, the regulation of persons engaging in matters such as supervision of sewerage system construction and maintenance.”

What is the Role of an Authorized Person?

As per section 6 of the SSR, an authorized person may construct or maintain a sewerage system, or supervise an owner constructing or maintaining a sewerage system on their own land. The authorized person must file with the health authorities before beginning to construct (section 8), and provide a letter of certification after completing a sewerage system (section 9). The SSR provisions are based on a model of professional reliance for the proper design, construction and maintenance of sewerage systems.

As per the SSR, a ROWP must meet the requirements of section 7(1) or 7(2) and a professional is an individual who meets the two requirements of section 7(3) of the SSR:

1. Section 7(3)(a) specifies the kind of training the individual must have.
2. Section 7(3)(b) establishes the type of professional association to which the individual must belong as a fully trained and practising member.

What Can a Registered Practitioner Do? What Can a Professional Do?

Type 1 and Type 2 treatment methods:

Both ROWP and professionals can construct and maintain a Type 1 or Type 2 system and supervise an owner doing so on their own land.

Type 3 treatment methods, and systems designed for an estimated minimum daily domestic sewage flow of more than 9 100 litres:

Only a professional can construct and maintain and supervise construction and maintenance of Type 3 systems.

Definitions

The SSR defines “construct” and “maintenance” as follows:

“‘construct’ includes

(a) to plan or conduct a site assessment in respect of a sewerage system,

(b) to install, repair or alter a sewerage system, and

(c) in the case of an authorized person, to supervise the doing of any matter listed in paragraphs (a) and (b)

‘maintenance,’ in the case of an authorized person, includes to supervise the maintenance of a sewerage system”

The Three Types of Sewerage Systems

Type 1: treatment by septic tank only.

Type 2: treatment that produces an effluent consistently containing less than 45 mg/L of total suspended solids and having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand of less than 45 mg/L.

Type 3: treatment that produces an effluent consistently containing less than 10 mg/L of total suspended solids and having:

- A five-day biochemical oxygen demand of less than 10 mg/L.
- A median fecal coliform density of less than 400 Colony Forming Units per 100 mL.