



## 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.