

Number: ONST.13.POL.834  
Title: OWNER INSPECTIONS OF ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS IN MARINE  
RECOVERY AREAS (MRA)

Related: ONST.12.POL.833

Approved:   
Environmental Health Director  
Date: 11/21/2013

Cancels: ONST.12.POL.834

RCW/Code:

---

To meet Operational Certificate renewal requirements, owners of properties within the MRA may be trained and certified to inspect specific existing system types on their properties.

1. **Owners of the following types of systems, EXCEPT if serving a food establishment, may conduct inspections of their on-site sewage system to renew their Operational Certificate**
  - A. Conventional gravity systems.
  - B. Conventional pressure distribution systems.
  - C. Mound systems.
  - D. Glendon® systems.
2. **In order to conduct an 'Owner' Inspection, the property owner must be trained and certified by the Department or equivalent training approved by the Department**
3. **The certification process shall include the following:**
  - A. Attendance at an Owner Inspection Training Workshop.
  - B. Demonstration of proper inspection techniques.
  - C. Development of site plan for OSS if no as-built or record drawing is available.
  - D. Demonstrate understanding of basic on-site sewage system principles
    - Treatment
    - Inspection
    - Maintenance
    - Troubleshooting
4. **A certified owner may only evaluate the system serving their property unless otherwise permitted by the Department. Other permissions may include homeowner associations, neighborly assistance to elderly and disabled, and family member assistance.**
5. **A condition of owner-inspector certification is dependent on the following:**
  - A. Owner agrees to allow TCEH to conduct quality assurance inspections, by appointment,
  - B. The owner inspections are complete and accurate, and
  - C. The owner complies with all conditions of the operational certificate and renews the operational certificate as required in accordance with Article IV.

6. If an owner fails to perform maintenance, inspections, submit inspection reports, or any other required activities, certification will be revoked.
7. When the septic system type changes and no longer meets #1 above, the certified owner can no longer conduct the inspection.
8. When property owners change, the new owner may conduct inspections if they are certified.