

Thurston County
Permitting System Policies & Procedures

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Number: ONST.13.POL.833

Title: ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM INSPECTIONS IN THE MARINE RECOVERY
AREAS OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Related: ONST.12.POL.834
ONST.13.POL.605

Approved: 
Environmental Health Director
Date: 10/10/2013

Cancels: ONST.13.POL.833 (8/2/13)

RCW/Code:

Owners of properties within Marine Recovery Areas must have their existing on-site sewage systems inspected at time of certificate renewal.

1. Trained or certified inspectors are required for all OSS. Owner inspections will only be accepted as official O&M documents if the owner has been certified by the Department.

This table identifies the certification requirements for inspectors for OSS types in Thurston County.

System Type	Certified Owner (Per County Policy)	Certified Pumping Firm	Specialty Certified Pumper	Installer	Certified Monitoring Specialist	Responsible Management Entity
Gravity/ Pressure Distribution/Mound/ Glendon® Biofilter	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sand Filter Pretreatment Units			X	X	X	X
Proprietary Treatment Products and Disinfection Units (except Glendon Biofilter)					X	
Drip Line Distribution					X	
Community OSS w more than 2 residential connections or >1,000 gpd (except gravity flow) or >600 gpd within City Limits or UGA					X	
Community OSS w standard gravity in existence before 9/1/90		X	X	X	X	

An OSS with two connections is not considered a community system and who can inspect and the frequency of inspections is based upon the system type.

Where multiple community systems exist on a parcel(s) under single ownership (i.e. mobile home park, apartment complex) if any community system on the parcel requires a certified monitoring specialist, then ALL systems serving that facility shall be inspected by a certified monitoring specialist annually

2. The OSS type and use dictate the operational certificate renewal frequency.

A. Annual renewal

- Proprietary treatment products (see Glendon® BioFilter below)
- Systems with disinfection

- Community systems for those components that meet community system definition (See Section 1 above)
 - Food Establishments
 - Schools
 - Drip Line Distribution
- B. Glendon® BioFilter
- First year after installation and every 3 years thereafter
- C. Renewal every 3 years
- All other systems
 - Sewage tanks within 2-connection and community systems that serve only one or two residential units
3. **Inspection reports shall be submitted on Department forms or in a format acceptable to the Department.**
4. **Systems required to have Service Contracts (See ONST.13.POL.605).**
- A. Must be inspected by Certified Monitoring Specialist
- B. Must have documentation of a current contract
- C. Must satisfy all requirements in the Operational Certificate before the operational certificate can be renewed.
5. **Quality Control inspections will be conducted by the Department on the following:**
- A. 10% of OPC system renewals
- B. 10% of high risk systems that are dye tested by professionals
6. **Large or complex OSS may require more than one Operational Certificate**
- A. A single-family residence or a single use connection, i.e. one business office, requires **one** certificate.
- B. An OSS serving two (2) residential or commercial units requires **one** certificate for the individual tank(s) and components serving one unit and the set of shared components **PLUS one** certificate for any individual components serving the second unit. If both units share all OSS components then one certificate required. If there are components that serve only one of the two units, there will be a maximum of two certificates required for the OSS. This policy applies regardless of whether the OSS is wholly on one or multiple parcels or owned by single or multiple owners.
- C. A community system requires **one certificate for each tank or set of individual components PLUS one certificate for the shared community system components**, i.e. shared pump chamber and drainfield.