

THURSTON COUNTY  
WASHINGTON  
SINCE 1852

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 1996

TO: On-site Sewage System Designers and other interested parties

FROM: Randy Freeby, Sr. EHS

SUBJECT: Policy for implementation of DOH/TRC Sand Filter Guidelines  
ONST96.POL.802

The policy noted above has been approved. The policy is attached. The effective date for implementation of this policy is **November 18, 1996**. Until changes to the Guideline or to the policy become effective, all designs submitted on or after November 18, 1996 must follow the **June 1996** version of the DOH/TRC *Guidelines for Sand Filters*, with the additions, clarifications and exceptions from policy ONST96.POL.802.


Except with reference to reduced size drainfields following an intermittent sand filter, I believe there are no other changes to the guideline. If you would like to obtain a copy of the June 1996 version of the Sand Filter Guidelines, we suggest you call Randy at WA State DOH to order or pick up a copy. His number is (360) 664-8250. He plans to have copies available after November 11, 1996. We also could make a copy for you, but we would need one week lead time to get copies made. If you have any questions, or would like us to make you a copy of the guideline, my phone number is (360) 786-5748.



Number: ONST.96.POL.802

Title: APPLICATION OF RECOMMENDED STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE FOR INTERMITTENT SAND FILTER SYSTEMS – JULY 1, 2000 VERSION.

Related: RS&G for Effluent Quality-Based  
Drainfield, ONST.97.POL.802 (PD)

Approved:   
Environmental Health Division Director  
Date: July 1, 2002

Cancels: November 18, 1996

RCW/Code: WAC 246-272, Article IV

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The purpose of this policy is to clarify how Thurston County Environmental Health will apply the revised Washington State Department of Health Recommended Standards and Guidance (RS&G) for Intermittent Sand Filter Systems. The RS&G are in a different format than the former "guideline" version of this document. The document now has two types of information: Recommended Standards and Guidance. The Recommended Standards will be implemented as written, the "shall" and "must" items being mandatory, with exceptions as indicated below. The Guidance portions are available as good information and possible alternatives to consider in any particular case, but not required, unless specifically indicated below.

3.7.2 This section refers to drainfield design allowances. Refer to the current RS&G for Effluent Quality-Based Drainfields.

## 4.2 FILTER BED

4.2.1 Written certification from the supplier regarding conformity of sand is NOT required. Per Article IV, Section 15.3.1, the installer's notification that the onsite sewage system (OSS) is ready for final inspection will be the verification that the installation is per the approved design.

### 4.2.2.1 Loading Rate

The maximum loading rate is 1.0 gallon/square foot/day when using the ASTM C-33 specification for sand. A loading rate up to 1.2 gallons/square foot/day is allowed when using the specification for Coarse Sand Media.

## 5.2 User's Manual

The department is responsible for a general User's Manual for sand filter systems. For proprietary sand filter devices (example, Glendon BioFilter), a complete maintenance and operation document must be developed and provided by the manufacturer to the designer, and made available to the department for distribution to the owner.

5.3.1 The department is responsible for a general Operation and Maintenance Manual for intermittent sand filter systems.

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ONST.96.POL.802

Date: July 1, 2002

Appendix B, A., 2., (e), (D), (iii), Page 19 – The installer is the entity responsible to perform a site inspection, prior to installation of the liner, to verify that surface conditions are suitable for installation.

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