

SECTION 8

8.0 SEPTIC TANK CLEANERS

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8.1 General

A septic tank cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification from the Department may undertake the activities as outlined in Section 36(1) of the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations*. The activities as outlined in Section 36(1) of the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations* are 1) pump, repair or modify a septic tank, holding tank or vault privy or cause a septic tank, holding tank or vault privy to be pumped, repaired or modified; 2) pump portable rest rooms or causes portable rest rooms to be pumped; 3) clean a system using pressurized water or air.

All repair or rehabilitation work carried out on an on-site system with the exception of a minor alteration as defined the regulations must have an approval from the Department of Environment. All repair or rehabilitation work including a minor alteration must be carried out by a licensed installer with the exception that a septic tank cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification from the Department may repair or modify a septic tank, holding tank, or vault privy as detailed in this section of the guidelines.

8.2 Repair/Cleaning Operations

A septic tank cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification from the Department may undertake activities as outlined in Section 36(1) of the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations*. This includes pumping, repairing or modifying a septic tank, holding tank or vault privy, the pumping of portable rest rooms and the cleaning of a system using pressurized water or air.

The following sections (sections 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.2.3 and 8.2.4) provide clarification related to the activities that a septic tank cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification may perform under section 36(1) of the regulations.

8.2.1 Pump, Repair or Modify a Septic Tank, Holding Tank or Vault Privy (Pumper)

- Repairs and modifications are limited to replacing or repairing inlet and outlet baffles or tees, replacing cracked, broken or missing lids on septic tanks and holding tanks, sealing cracks, or adding risers.
- Repairs and modifications **do not include** replacing the pipe from the septic tank to pump chamber, replacing the pipe from the septic tank or pump chamber to the disposal field or further treatment, replacing septic tanks or pump chambers, replacing holding tanks, or replacing vault privies.

8.2.2 Cleaning Systems Using Pressurized Air or Water (Flusher)

- This activity is limited to hand digging in the immediate area of the disposal field end caps and removing the end caps, flushing out the distribution pipes and pipes from the septic tank or pump chamber to field, accessing the pipes **only** from the septic tank, pump chamber and the end caps.

8.2.3 Assisting a Septic Tank Cleaner

- A Certificate of Qualification is not required for a person who is assisting a septic tank cleaner, **however**, a septic tank cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification must supervise during any of the activities outlined in Section 36(1) of the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations*.
 - Example: If a company hires 10 part time staff (who do not hold Certificates of Qualification as a Septic Tank Cleaner) to maintain portable rest rooms at a concert, a septic tank cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification must supervise at all times if the staff will be performing any of the activities outlined in Section 36(1) of the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations*.
 - Example: If a company hires a new employee and, before the new employee receives a Certificate of Qualification, he/she is participating in on the job training, a septic tank cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification must supervise at all times if the new employee is performing any of the activities outlined in Section 36(1) of the *On-site Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations*.

8.2.4 Additional Requirements (Flusher)

- When flushing a septic system as referred to in 8.2.2, a vacuum truck operated by a Septic Tank Cleaner who holds a valid Certificate of Qualification must be on site to collect the wastewater.
- The Septic Tank Cleaner must submit a report [as attached in Appendix H of the Guidelines and titled *Septic System Flushing Report Form*] to the Department no longer than three (3) days after flushing a system.