

NOTICE

Private Sewage Systems Update – July 2017

FINAL NOTICE – August 1, 2017 Deadline to Obtain 2015 Standard of Practice (SOP) Update Training Required for Renewal of a Private Sewage Certificate of Competency

As had been previously outlined in Standata PST-2016-002, the deadline for completion of the 2015 Standard of Practice update training course was March 31, 2017. Completion of this training is required to renew a Private Sewage Certificate of Competency (CoC). This course is not required if you completed the full competency training (7 or 9 days) offered by Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association (AOWMA) after March 31, 2016, as code updates were included in the training material.

A final deadline of August 1, 2017 was set in consultation with the Certification Review Committee (CRC), at which point any individuals seeking to renew their CoC would be required to complete the full 9-day competency training offered by the AOWMA on behalf of Alberta Municipal Affairs. No additional update training courses are planned; however, if you still require this training, you should contact the AOWMA and request your name be put on a waiting list for this course. They can be contacted at 780-489-7471 or www.aowma.com. An additional offering of this course may be run if there is enough demand. Without this training and completion of additional field competency training you will have to complete the 9-day training to renew your certification.

NEW INITIATIVE: Certification Review Committee

In the private sewage discipline, the Technical Administrator is granted the authority to issue, suspend or cancel certification under the Safety Codes Act in Alberta. To hold certification that allows someone to obtain a private sewage permit, an individual must demonstrate certain competencies, such as being knowledgeable in the application of the SOP and the process of obtaining permits. Situations arise where incomplete design consideration or installations fail to meet SOP requirements, bringing competencies into question, at which time the Technical Administrator is requested to review an individual's certification.

In an effort for greater transparency, while maintaining an impartial and fair process of assessing competencies related to certification within the private sewage discipline, the Technical Administrator approached industry stakeholders. A committee was established to assist in reviewing and providing direction to the Technical Administrator in regards to competencies required to maintain certification. The Certification Review Committee (CRC) was created and had its first meeting in April 2017; meeting 3 more times since this inaugural meeting. The CRC matrix consists of representation from industry training instructors, safety codes officers, industry (an Association representative and installer/designer), the Safety Codes Council and Municipal Affairs staff.

The CRC has provided direction around training deadlines, additional training competency requirements for certification renewal and has reviewed a number of issue files to provide direction for action on certification. The CRC will also be assessing the needs for continuing education around certification competencies and the training requirements that assess competency prior to certification issuance.

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For further information contact Municipal Affairs
toll-free at 1-866-421-6929.



NEW INITIATIVE: Private Sewage Working Group

Under the authority of the Plumbing Sub Council (PSC) and the Safety Codes Council, a permanent working group has been established to review technical matters in the private sewage discipline. The Private Sewage Working Group (PSWG) has been tasked with providing direction to the Technical Administrator and PSC with respect to code clarification, industry initiatives (i.e., work camp guidance, new equipment/product, support documentation, etc.) and training consideration. The PSWG matrix consists of representation from the PSC, industry training instructors, safety codes officers, industry (an Association representative and installer/designer), the Safety Codes Council and Municipal Affairs staff.

The PSWG had its first meeting in June 2017 and has another meeting scheduled in October. The PSWG is reviewing certain clauses in the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice (SOP) and assisting the Administrator in developing Info Bulletins and Province-Wide Variances that will clarify SOP requirements. The PSWG and Safety Codes Council invites persons to contribute to this review by sending suggested changes that will improve the treatment effectiveness, safety and sustainability of private sewage systems in Alberta. Send your suggestions, quoting the number of the Article in the Standard to be revised and stating the rationale for change to the following email address:

communications@safetycodes.ab.ca

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