
STANDATA bulletin 21-PSB-001

Private Sewage

Part 10 - Privies

Date Issued: September 2021

Page 1 of 2

Purpose

Provides clarity on the requirement of alarms for on-site wastewater treatment systems as referenced in Articles 2.3.1.2. and 2.4.1.4 of the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice (SOP).

Discussion

A privy, as defined in the SOP, is considered an on-site wastewater treatment system; however it is unreasonable and not practical to require the installation of a mechanism or process capable of visually and audibly warning the user of a high content-level condition. This would apply to both pit privies and privies on a watertight holding tank. The expected accumulation of sludge and lack of liquid would interfere with the operation of an alarm float device.

Except as prescribed in Article 10.1.2.2. Sentence 2), where a privy on a watertight holding tank receives greywater from a washstand or a residence, this system is deemed a holding tank; and will require a device to signal a high liquid level condition.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice as amended from time to time.

Issued by the Provincial Private Sewage Administrator

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Code References**Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2015**

Article 2.3.1.2. Alarms Required

- 1) All on-site wastewater treatment systems, including holding tank systems but excluding lagoons, shall include a mechanism or process capable of visually and audibly warning the user of the system when high liquid level conditions above the normal operating specification exists.

Article 2.4.1.4. Holding Tank High Liquid Level Warning

- 1) All holding tank systems must include a mechanism or process of visually and audibly warning the user of the holding tank system when liquid levels exceed the normal operating specifications.

Article 10.1.2.2. Restriction on Receiving Water-carried Wastes

- 2) A privy equipped with a watertight holding tank to contain wastes may receive greywater from outdoor washstands or from a residence.