



TOWN OF HALIFAX

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Board of Health

499 Plymouth St., Halifax, MA 02338

Telephone (781) 293 6768 * Fax (781) 293 1738

Regulation for a Wastewater Management District

Effective: June 25, 2003

Wastewater Management District Regulation for the Town of Halifax

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Wastewater Management Districts

Section 1. Purpose of Regulation

Whereas:

- a. The Monponsett Ponds are considered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to be a Tributary to a Surface Water Supply,
- b. The Town of Halifax does not have any municipal sewer system,
- c. Privately owned septic systems, when in failure, or when improperly maintained, may introduce pollutants to the groundwater,
- d. Privately owned septic systems, when in failure, or when improperly maintained, may introduce pollutants to the Monponsett Ponds,
- e. Investigations, including water testing, have indicated that failed on-site septic systems have been responsible for high E.coli counts and closed beaches,
- f. Surface and groundwater resources in the Town of Halifax contribute to the Town's water supply,
- g. The establishment of wastewater management districts will enable the Board of Health to better track the status of septic systems surrounding the Monponsett Ponds, including pump-outs, permits, inspections and maintenance,
- h. The gathering of information on the location, description of and level of functionality of on-site septic systems surrounding the Monponsett Ponds will provide useful information for the purpose of studying the feasibility of a sewerage treatment plant for the homes surrounding the Monponsett Ponds.
- i. In order to protect the public health, the environment and to better assure the continued recreational and aesthetic uses of the Monponsett Ponds, the Town of Halifax Board of Health adopts the following regulation establishing Wastewater Management Districts delineated by Buffer Zones of Critical Concern surrounding and affecting the Monponsett Ponds.

Section 2. Scope of Authority

The Town of Halifax Board of Health adopts the following regulation pursuant to authorization granted by M.G.L. s.31 and s.122 and the State's Sanitary Code. Also, M.G.L. c. 111 s.31 is an unusually broad grant of authority empowering boards of health to adopt reasonable health regulations. The power of boards of health to adopt regulations under section 31 is extensive and provides a comprehensive, separate, additional source of authority for health regulations (Benes et. al.1995). The regulation shall apply, as specified herein, to all applicable facilities, existing and new, within the Town of Halifax.

Section 3. Definitions

For the purposes of this regulation, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

Buffer Zones of Critical Concern: At present, according to this regulation, these areas are the properties within fifty feet of the Monponsett Ponds. If future testing of the receiving waters (Monponsett Ponds) indicates that upgrades of septic systems beyond fifty feet of the Monponsett Ponds are necessary, this regulation will be amended to describe and define the modification (s) to the Buffer Zone of Critical Concern. For instance, if repairs to septic systems within fifty feet of Monponsett Ponds are not sufficient to prevent pollution to those same Ponds, then future amendments to this regulation may extend the Buffer Zones of Critical Concern to include all septic systems that are within fifty feet of surface waters, wetlands and/or drain systems and/or the fifty feet surrounding the Ponds may extend to 100 feet.

Department: The Department of Environmental Protection

Failed System: A system which does not protect public health and safety or the environment as set forth at 310 CMR 15.303.

Function Checks: Will be performed at the time of pumping any on-site system within fifty feet of the Monponsett Ponds. The form describes the components of the system and its current level of functioning. The form is attached to this regulation in Section 5.

Receiving Waters: For the purposes of this regulation, this term refers to the Monponsett Ponds as the bodies of surface water receiving waters from other sources in the watershed such as streams and drains.

On-Site Septic System: A system or series of systems, including non-conforming systems, for the treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage below the ground surface on a residential lot. The standard components of a system are: a building sewer, a septic tank to retain solids and scum; a distribution box; a soil absorption system containing distribution lines to distribute and treat septic tank effluent prior to discharge to appropriate subsurface soils; and a reserve area. This term includes tight tanks, shared systems and alternative systems as described in 310 CMR15.000

Wastewater Management District: The district delineated by the Buffer Zones of Critical Concern, or, as measured, those on-site septic systems falling within fifty feet of the Monponsett Ponds.

Section 4. Requirements

Every septic system with any of its components within fifty feet of the Monponsett Ponds will have a function check each time that the system is pumped. The primary purpose of the function check is an initial effort to identify and describe the system's components and the components' ability to function properly. It is not a substitute for a Title V inspection performed by a State certified Inspector.

- A. The function check form used (see appendix #1, page 5.) by the septage hauling companies shall be approved by the Halifax Board of Health.
- B. A sample function check form shall be mailed to all septage hauling companies licensed in the Town of Halifax along with a copy of this regulation.
- C. The completed function check form, or a copy of, shall be sent to the Halifax Board of Health within 30 days of the function check.
- D. If the function check indicates the septic system may be in failure, each case will be considered on an individual basis, unless there is indication of an immediate threat to public health.
- E. If the function check indicates that a system's component or components need repair, the system owner will receive an order of correction. Examples of components that may need repair include broken tee's or a missing riser.
- F. If the system's function check cannot be completed due to a lack of a riser, this will be indicated on the report and the system owner will receive an order of correction to add a riser in order to facilitate the next function check and to facilitate pumping of the system.
- G. If deemed necessary, septage haulers will be required to pass a test administered by the Halifax Board of Health to demonstrate ability to conduct the function check.

Section 5. The Function Check Form

See attached, Appendix 1, page 5.

Section 6. Effective Date

The effective date of this regulation is the date posted on the front of the regulation, which shall be identical to the date of the adoption of the regulation.

Section 7. Penalties

Failure to comply with provisions of this regulation will result in the levy of fines of not less than \$200.00, but no more than \$1,000.00. Each day's failure to comply with the provisions of this regulation shall constitute a separate violation.

Note: Effective 1992, under Chapter 111:Section 31 (violation of health regulation) maximum fines increased from \$500 to \$1,000. and Section 122 (violation of nuisance regulations) maximum fines increased from \$100. to \$1,000.

Adopted on June 25, 2003 by the Town of Halifax Board of Health

Signed

John A. D. R.

Chairperson

John L. Weber

CoChair

Jeffrey Anderson

Clerk



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Septic System Function Check Reporting Form

Note: This function check form must be filled out completely any time a waste disposal system within fifty feet of the Monponsett Ponds is pumped, as of September, 2002.

1. Property Address: _____ Map _____ Lot _____
2. Property Owner's Name _____
3. Date of Pump/Function Check: _____
4. Septic System Components Present: (Please put a check next to all known components.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Cesspool	<input type="checkbox"/> Leach Pit	<input type="checkbox"/> Distribution Box
<input type="checkbox"/> Overflow Cesspool	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaching Trenches	<input type="checkbox"/> Tight Tank
<input type="checkbox"/> Septic Tank, concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaching Bed or Field	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Septic Tank, metal	<input type="checkbox"/> Riser & cover over outlet	<input type="checkbox"/> Filter in outlet tee

5. Cesspool(s)

Circle YES if there is problem.
Circle NO if there is no problem.

5. Septic Tank

Circle YES if there is problem.
Circle NO if there is no problem.

5. Tight Tank

Circle YES if there is problem.
Circle NO if there is no problem.

*Ponding or Breakout Yes No
*Cesspool structure Yes No
*Liquid level above inlet invert Yes No

*Ponding or Breakout Yes No
*Tank structure Yes No
*Liquid level above outlet invert Yes No
*Tees or baffles missing or broken Yes No

*Ponding or Breakout Yes No
*Tank structure Yes No

6. Leaching area: Run back from leaching area? Yes No

*If Yes circled on any of the above, please describe the problem(s) you have seen: _____

7. Repairs: please describe any repairs made: _____

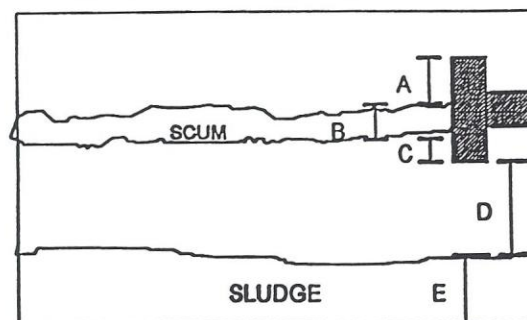
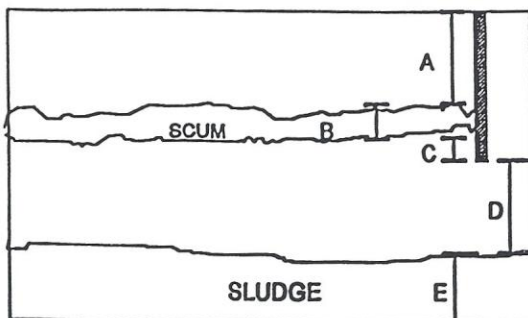
8. Volume pumped _____ gallons

9. Sludge and Scum Levels: If tank is not pumped, complete Septic Tank Drawing Information.

Distance from top of outlet tee/baffle to top of scum: A _____ Thickness of scum: B _____

Distance from bottom of scum to bottom of outlet tee/baffle: C _____

Distance from bottom of outlet tee/baffle to top of sludge: D _____ Thickness of sludge: E _____



10. Additional comments: _____

11. Please print driver's name: _____

The following may be blank on the homeowner's copy:

12. Contents disposed at: _____ Date: _____