
STANDATA bulletin 24-PSB-001

Private Sewage

Certification of packaged sewage treatment plants

Date Issued: January 2024

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Purpose

This bulletin clarifies the requirement on certification of packaged sewage treatment plants installed in Alberta. This bulletin replaces the information on this topic that was previously provided as a Municipal Affairs webpage.

Discussion

The Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2021, Sub-Section 5.2.3., sets out the standards, packaged sewage treatment plants must be certified to. Treatment plants not certified to the prescribed standards are not acceptable in Alberta.

For complete listings of certified packaged sewage treatment plants please see the following links:

<https://info.nsf.org/Certified/Wastewater/>

<https://www.bnq.qc.ca/en/certified-clients.html>

Independent tanks used for packaged sewage treatment plants shall be certified as meeting the CSA-B66, Design, Material, and Manufacturing Requirements for Prefabricated Septic Tanks and Sewage Holding Tanks, or the BNQ Standard NQ 3680-905/208, Prefabricated Septic Tanks for Residential Use – Dimensional and Physical Characteristics.

Undertakings in the private sewage discipline require a permit. Upon permit application, proof of packaged sewage treatment plant certification must be provided as part of the design review by a safety codes officer. Installers of these systems are required to be trained and registered with their distributor. Upon request, installers must be able to provide evidence of who their distributor is and that they have received the required installation and maintenance training.

Maintenance of a packaged sewage treatment plant is critical to the ongoing successful operation of the overall treatment system. A packaged sewage treatment plant that is not producing high quality effluent may cause the soil-based component of the system to fail. Owners are responsible to ensure the required maintenance is complete and should maintain records of maintenance.

Code References

Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2021

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/standata-private-sewage-bulletin>



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5.2.3.1. Packaged Sewage Treatment Plant Structural Requirements and Operational Certification

- 1) *Packaged sewage treatment plants* shall be *certified* to meet one of the following where applicable:
 - a) National Sanitation Foundation (NSF/ANSI) Standard 40, Class 1, for Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems;
 - b) CAN/BNQ-3680-600 Standard for Onsite Residential Wastewater Treatment Technologies;
 - c) CSA B128.3 Standard for the Performance of Non-potable Water Reuse Treatment Systems;
 - d) NSF/ANSI 350 Onsite Residential and Commercial Water Reuse Treatment Systems;
 - e) NSF/ANSI 350-1 Onsite Residential and Commercial Greywater Treatment Systems for Subsurface Discharge
- 2) In addition to Sentence (1), tanks used for *packaged sewage treatment plants* shall be *certified* as meeting the structural and material requirements of
 - a) CSA-B66, Design, Material, and Manufacturing Requirements for Prefabricated Septic Tanks and Sewage Holding Tanks, as amended or replaced from time to time, or
 - b) BNQ Standard NQ 3680-905/208, Prefabricated Septic Tanks for Residential Use – Dimensional and Physical Characteristics.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2021.

Issued by the Provincial Private Sewage Administrator

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<https://www.alberta.ca/packaged-sewage-treatment-plants>

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