
Notice

Private Sewage

Private Sewage Installer/Designer, Competency Plumbing Group B Safety Codes Officer, Competency

Municipal Affairs has recently received an unprecedented number of complaints/issues from the public as well as the Alberta Safety Codes Authority (ASCA) regarding installer/designer and Safety Codes Officer (SCO) competency regarding:

- deficiencies in private sewage system designs prepared by certified installers/designers; and
- deficiencies in system design reviews conducted by SCOs.

The Private Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation requires the Safety Codes Council and Municipal Affairs to ensure design standards for private sewage systems are applied correctly to reduce the risk to public health and the natural environment to a level that is deemed acceptable.

Municipal Affairs will be contacting individuals regarding installer/designer concerns to discuss the subject matter in more detail prior to any investigation or further action. Issues identified include:

- poorly defined soil profiles,
- improper interpretation of Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice (SOP) design articles, and
- calculation errors and designs done outside the scope of the SOP without of a variance.

The Safety Codes Council will be contacting SCOs to discuss identified concerns in more detail. The issues are primarily related to permit applications being processed with the shortcomings noted above and permits being issued on improper designs. Matters related to the competency of safety codes officers will also be addressed by the Safety Code Council.

The cases brought to the attention of Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council will be reviewed to determine if any disciplinary action needs to be taken under the *Safety Codes Act*.

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