

Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice

Please be advised, the Ministry of Health has posted the new Provincial Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice.

They have asked ASTTBC to forward this notification to our ROWPs, as follows:

E-mail notice from the Ministry of Health, Health Protection Branch**Subject: Provincial Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice**

Dear Onsite Sewage Stakeholder,

Please be advised that the Provincial Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice (final) is now posted on the Ministry of Health website. The manual provides a comprehensive set of provisions which support the design, installation, and maintenance of composting toilet-based sewerage systems, and aligns with the Sewerage System Regulation and Sewerage System version 3 Standard Practice Manual (SPM).

The manual, along with a description of its use, is located directly below the version 3 SPM at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/sewage/onsite-sewage-systems/sewage-system-standard-practice-manual>

PRACTICE REMINDER:

ASTTBC Policy and Guidelines, and the Code of Ethics include requirements for ROWP practice related to the new Composting Toilet and Greywater standards. The key point is you must work within your 'allowable' scope of practice. You must provide an opinion on composting toilets and greywater ONLY when it is founded upon adequate knowledge and honest conviction (as per Code of Ethics Principle 4).

For composting toilets or greywater systems, only ROWP Planners should undertake design. Only ROWP Installers should undertake installation. Only ROWP Maintenance Providers should undertake maintenance.

ASTTBC advises ROWPs to ensure they are fully familiar with the new Provincial Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice before considering any work within this new field of practice. Mentoring, or referral to other Practitioners or Professionals might also be suitable.

The Sewerage System Regulation (SSR) and the Sewerage System Standard Practice Manual (SPM) applies to composting toilets and greywater systems. SSR requirements for Authorized Persons, Filings, Certifications and all other aspects of the SSR must be complied with. The new Provincial Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice is to be applied 'alongside' the SPM.

Update re SPM3 Orientation Requirements

The ROWP Bulletin #3 June 29 2016 included a reminder that all ROWPs are required to complete orientation to the new SPM Version 3 as a condition of ongoing registration. We received several enquiries from ROWPs who have met the requirement but thought this was a new requirement for them. Most ROWPs met the requirement in 2014 and 2015 by attending the live workshops. Others have met the requirement more recently by writing an SPM3 exam. The requirement remains outstanding ONLY for those who received a recent notification from ASTTBC. There are still a few dozen ROWPs who have not met the requirement. If you did not receive a written notification that you still need to meet the requirement then you have met the requirement.

We are following up (again) with those ROWPs who have not met the requirement. Those who commit to complete the exam as soon as possible will retain their registration. Others will be cancelled. If you still need to meet the requirement, you must respond to the written notification. Note we have recorded webinars and learning exercises on line to help you prepare for the SPM3 exam (<http://owrp.asttbc.org/p/resources.php>). Feel free to contact Jim Andersen, Manager, Onsite Wastewater Program (jandersen@asttbc.org) for technical questions or assistance. Contact Frauke Bracht, Coordinator, Registrations (fbracht@asttbc.org) to make arrangements for the exam, or to confirm your resignation.

Reminder re Annual Fees

A significant number of ROWPs have not paid the ASTTBC annual renewal fees. The deadline was July 11 2016. Those ROWPs have been removed from the ROWP registry. Health Authorities have been advised. You can regain your registration by paying the fees.

Note that if you had your registration cancelled for non-payment of fees or for non compliance with the SPM3 requirement (or other reason) you are no longer an Authorized Person as defined by the Sewerage System Regulation. You must not produce Filings, Certifications, and must not perform installation, maintenance or inspection as an Authorized Person. You are also obliged to return the ASTTBC ROWP stamp to our office.



Other Updates

Enquiries.

We continue to receive and respond to many enquiries from the public, ROWPs, regulators and potential applicants.

Here is a summary of 2016 enquiries to date.

Description	# of Formal Enquiries
ROWPs regarding Tech and Regs	30 (+ many informal)
Potential applicants re path to certification	9
ROWP Applicants re assistance, clarification of certification process	41
SPM3 exam assistance, enquiries	8
Practice Assessment Reviews – support, questions	5
Professionals re tech and regs	5
Health Authorities	9
Realtors, local government, others	4
Public enquiries re tech, regs, ROWP practice	23
TOTAL	134

We are working hard to fulfill this important role. Feel free to contact us with your enquiries or requests for assistance. Typically, administrative enquiries should go to Frauke, technical enquiries to Jim.

New Applications.

We are seeing more interest in Maintenance Provider and Private Inspection certification. Good to see. Feel free to contact us for assistance or information if you are considering ‘add a category’ applications.

We continue to receive many applications for first time ROWP certification from inter-provincial transferees. Those certifications are granted without proof of relevant experience, without completion of onsite wastewater work under the supervision of an Authorized Person and without references – as required by inter provincial trade agreements.

Recently, those applicants have been required to complete an updated ASTTBC Jurisprudence exam, including some simple questions about the Sewerage System Regulation and ‘how to find’ standards in the Standard Practice Manual. There have been a significant number of ‘fails’



on the first attempt. We are providing support for those applicants – highlighting the learning resources we provide on line and with one-on-one technical assistance.

Reminder to all new registrants – you will also be required to complete a Practice Assessment Review. Our goal is to complete those within six months of your certification. Meanwhile, you can voluntarily ask for technical assistance, and/or provide documents etc. (such as Filings and Certifications, maintenance and inspection reports) for informal review and guidance. ASTTBC recommends you do so before completion of your initial projects. Contact Jim.

Mentoring, Field Training and Field Assessment

You can now access mentoring and training from ASTTBC. We have designated specialists who can help identify competency gaps and how to fill those gaps. This can be very helpful for new applicants and existing ROWPs seeking additional categories of registration. It is an option for those who need to gain experience under the oversight or supervision of an Authorized Person. Fees apply.

This is not intended to replace the introductory training provided by training organizations. Rather, field training and mentoring by ASTTBC will serve as an option to achieve advanced competencies, or for Continuing Professional Development ... and as noted above – to work with an Authorized Person as required by the Sewerage System Regulation for 'real world' projects.

Jim Andersen, DipIT, ROWP, Manager, Onsite Wastewater Program

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