



Public Health (General Sanitation, Mosquito Prevention, Rat Exclusion and Prevention) Regulations

ADDENDUM TO THE "CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SMALL ON-SITE SEWAGE AND SULLAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS AND THE DISPOSAL OR REUSE OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT" DATED NOVEMBER 1996.

I, BARBARA ANN PATERSON, the Chief Health Officer, for the purposes of publishing an addendum to the Code of Practice for Small On-Site Sewage and Sullage Treatment Systems and the Disposal or Reuse of Sewage Effluent ("the Code") as referred to in regulation 3 of Part II of the Public Health (General Sanitation, Mosquito Prevention, Rat Exclusion and Prevention) Regulations approve an addendum in the following form to comprise part of the Code, namely:

1. After clause 8.8.2 entitled "Sub Strata/Shallow Sub Surface Disposal Area - Installation Conditions" insert the following further 11 clauses numbered 14 to 24 inclusive:
 14. The minimum width of a landscaped area designated to accommodate a sub strata or shallow sub surface drip irrigation area shall be 2 metres.
 15. Establishing a sub strata or shallow sub surface drip irrigation area upslope (i.e. gradient greater than 1:100) of a building may have implications for the structural integrity of the building. This issue is beyond the scope of this section and should be examined by a building professional on a site-by-site basis.
 16. The applicant must demonstrate to the Department of Health compliance of the sub strata or shallow sub surface drip irrigation area with the setbacks in 8.9 and that the irrigation area is of sufficient size to accommodate the effluent discharged from the Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) without causing a public health or environmental nuisance. These details must be documented on a scaled site plan included with the site-specific design approval application showing setbacks to all site features, irrigation layout, and method of sizing the irrigation. Failure to provide these may negate the Department of Health's assessment of the site specific design approval.
 17. For the purposes of sizing the substrata or shallow subsurface drip irrigation area, the minimum flow rate from any commercial or industrial development shall be 450 litres per day. Daily flow rates exceeding 450 litres daily flow require the sizing of the irrigation area to be calculated using Appendix D of the Code.
 18. Each drip irrigation line shall have a maximum nominal width of infiltration of 1 metre, i.e. 500 mm each side of the drip irrigation line. Therefore a 50 metre length of drip irrigation line shall be calculated as having a 50m² irrigation area.
 19. All irrigation pipes and fittings should comply with AS/NZS 4130 and AS/NZS 4129 or with AS/NZS 1477.
 20. The use of garden hoses and fittings is not permitted. Drip irrigation lines should be of purple colour to indicate sewage.
 21. To avoid effluent pooling, drip irrigation lines should be laid level and must be spaced a minimum 1 metre apart.
 22. Sub strata or shallow sub surface drip irrigation (including any supply or return header lines connected to the AWTS) must be designated for the sole use of the land application of effluent and must not connect to the reticulated water supply. These components must be fully exposed to the elements and be clear of any structures (including shade cloth structures), paving, bitumen, concrete slabs, storage facilities, etc.
 23. Irrigation areas must be landscaped with appropriate nutrient reducing plants and maintained accordingly.
 24. All AWTS treated effluent must be contained within the property boundaries and must not cause a public health or environmental nuisance.
2. Replace section 8.9 entitled "Setback Distances" with:
 - 8.9 SITING AND SETBACK DISTANCES FOR AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS
 - 8.9.1 Siting of AWTS
Establishing a surface or sub strata/shallow sub surface drip irrigation area upslope (i.e. gradient greater than 1:100) of a building may have implications for the structural integrity of the building. This issue is beyond the scope of this section and should be examined by a building professional on a site-by-site basis.
The AWTS and associated irrigation area should not be sited on land subject to flooding.
 - 8.9.2 Surface Irrigation
A range of minimum setback distances for AWTS are necessary in order to protect buildings, structures and adjoining properties. See Figures 27-30 and Section 7.5, for general setback distances from the closest point of the surface effluent irrigation area to the surface features.
Exceptions to Section 7.5 include an AWTS's surface effluent irrigation area being a minimum of:
 - thirty (30) or fifty (50) metres from a bore, well or water courses used for human or animal consumption for chlorinated and unchlorinated effluent respectively
 - fifteen (15) metres from rainwater tanks
 - 2.5 metres from any boundaries or buildings.
 - 8.9.3 Sub Strata/Shallow Sub Surface Irrigation
Shallow sub strata or shallow sub surface drip irrigation areas (i.e. drip irrigation lines) must not be located within:

- thirty (30) or fifty (50) metres from a bore, well or water courses used for human or animal consumption for chlorinated and unchlorinated effluent respectively
- 1.5 metres from rainwater tanks
- 1.5 metres of a building
- 0.5 metres of property boundary
- 0.5 metres of a driveway or paved surface
- 3.0 metres of an open drain
- 1.0 metre of a swimming pool.

Dated 4th December, 2012.

B. A. PATERSON
Chief Health Officer
