



Fact Sheet

South Carolina Department of Environmental Services • des.sc.gov

S.C. Regulation 61-56, Onsite Wastewater Systems Changes

South Carolina Regulation 61-56, Onsite Wastewater Systems has been revised effective July 1, 2022.

New Criteria for Subdivisions

SCDES will no longer perform a soil evaluation or prepare a system layout for any subdivision or portion of a subdivision with ten (10) or more lots. Soil evaluations for any lots that are part of a subdivision with ten (10) or more lots must be conducted by a licensed Professional Soil Classifier. Proposed system layouts for any lots that are part of a subdivision with ten (10) lots or more must be prepared by a third-party Registered Professional Engineer or Professional Soil Classifier. The Soils Report and proposed system layout must be submitted with the onsite wastewater system permit application for the purpose of SCDES's review and issuance of a permit to construct.

Sites Located Above the Fall Line

Backhoe pits are now required for all sites located above the Fall Line that separates the Piedmont area from the Coastal Plain as defined by the South Carolina Geological Survey. Applicants having lots located in this area will need to schedule the site visit and provide backhoe pits on the site in order for SCDES personnel to conduct the site evaluation.

Three-Tiered System for OSWW System Installers

A 3-tiered system for OSWW system installers has been established. All persons currently licensed as a master installer with the Department will become a Tier 3 installer. Those who are currently licensed but are not master installers will be grandfathered in as a Tier 2 installer. Under the updated regulation, only Tier 3 installers will be able to install and perform maintenance on systems permitted under the System Standard 610 – Specialized Onsite Wastewater System Designs. The scope of work permitted varies between tiers.

Highlights

- SCDES will not perform a soil evaluation or prepare a system layout for any subdivision or portion of a subdivision with ten (10) or more lots
- backhoe pits shall be required for all sites located above the Fall Line that separates the Piedmont area from the Coastal Plain as defined by the South Carolina Geological Survey
- a 3-tiered system for OSWW system installers has been established

For more information, visit SCDES's webpage at <https://des.gov/Septic>.