

Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems
Summary of September 1, 2026 Revisions

Cover Page, Table of Contents, and Public Health Code (PHC) Regulation Sections

- Added new DPH Logo
- Reorganized Table of Contents to Align with Section Changes; added Table of Figures and Table of Tables for ease of access.
- Removal of regulatory language from start of Technical Standards.

Document Reformatting & Reorganization

- Document reorganized into hierarchal, numbered sections and subsections for ease of navigation and citation.
 - Primary Section Header (e.g., 1, 2, 3): Represents the main sections of the document, providing a high-level overview of the content.
 - Secondary Subheader (e.g., 1.1, 1.2, 2.1): Breaks down the primary sections into focused subtopics, offering additional detail.
 - Tertiary Subheader (e.g., 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 2.1.1): Delves deeper into specific aspects of the subtopics.
 - Quaternary Subheader (e.g., 1.1.1.1, 1.2.1.1): Used for highly detailed points that require further subdivision under tertiary subheaders.
- Overall renumbering of sections and subsections; new sections added:
 - Section 1. Usage Guide and Formatting Overview
 - Section 2. Acronyms and Abbreviations
 - Section 3. Subsurface Sewage Enforcement Officer: Local Health Agent Approval
 - Section 12. Leaching System Sizing
 - Section 13. Minimum Leaching System Spread (MLSS)
 - Section 14. Nitrogen
- Figures renumbered from previous versions (prior to 2026, no Figure #3).
- References to “Registered Sanitarian” throughout the document have been updated to Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS).

High-Level Changes

For more detailed information on changes made to each section, see pages 4-10 of this summary document.

2026 Technical Standards	2024 Technical Standards	Major Content Changes
N/A	Public Health Code Sections 19-13-B100a, 19-13-B103a-f	<i>2026 version of Technical Standards serves as a standalone document. Regulations may now be found online (link) and forms may be accessed on the Environmental Engineering Program's webpage (link).</i>
Section 1. Scope, Usage Guide, and Formatting Overview	N/A	<i>New section with disclaimer regarding proprietary products and guidance on new document structure and hierarchy.</i>
Section 2. Acronyms and Abbreviations	Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations	<i>Definition of large SSDS revised to 2,000 GPD – 10,000 GPD to reflect jurisdictional increase. Acronyms for BOD5, DOT, IAPMO, and NSF added to list.</i>
Section 3. Subsurface Sewage Enforcement Officer	N/A	<i>New section introducing Subsurface Sewage Enforcement Officer framework and local health director record-keeping responsibilities.</i>
Section 4. Definitions	I. Definitions	<i>Terms defined in PHC Sections 19-13-B100a and 19-13-B103 have been removed from the 2026 Technical Standards. Revisions made to existing definitions for accessory structures, foundation drains, and secondary safety lids; new definitions added for large subsurface sewage disposal systems, multi-family, and sewage tanks.</i>
Section 5. Location of Sewage Systems	II. Location of Sewage Systems	<i>Section content restructured in 2026 version, with location requirements expanded into Subsections 5.1-5.8. Major changes include reorganization of information on Commissioner exceptions into separate subsections (small community sewage systems, off-site subsurface sewage disposal systems, water supply well distances), added detail on central system exceptions, and terminology changes (e.g., "as-built plans").</i>
Section 6. Piping	III. Piping	<i>Differences between 2026 and 2024 versions mostly in section organization; separate subsections for floor drains, groundwater and surface water drainage piping, and water supply piping added.</i>
Section 7. Design Flows	IV. Design Flows	<i>Residential building design flow calculations updated in 2026 version for multi-family classifications; 2026 version adds,</i>

2026 Technical Standards	2024 Technical Standards	Major Content Changes
		<i>expands, or modifies several design flow categories in Table 4.</i>
Section 8. Septic Tanks and Grease Interceptor Tanks	V. Septic Tanks and Grease Interceptor Tanks	<i>Language on multiple tanks in series revised in 2026 version for more flexibility in layouts for large/nonresidential tank configurations. Tank cleaning, maintenance, and prescriptive reporting expectations outlined in 2026 version. New row added to Table 5 for tank sizing requirements above 15 bedrooms.</i>
Section 9. Effluent Distribution and Pump Systems	VI. Effluent Distribution, Pump Systems, and Air Injection Processes	<i>Air injection and system enhancement content moved into Section 11 (Leaching Systems) in 2026 version.</i>
Section 10. Percolation Tests	VII. Percolation Tests	<i>Content in 2026 version structured into subsections</i>
Section 11. Leaching Systems	VIII. Leaching Systems	<i>Clarifying language added regarding reserve areas; select fill materials separated into more explicit subsections; proprietary product tables updated; new sections added for Soil Air, EarthBuster, and Terra-Lift; new criteria added for residential leaching system sizing.</i>
Section 12. Leaching System Sizing	N/A	<i>Leaching system sizing (ELA) content and Tables 6-8 moved out of Section VIII (F) into a new dedicated section. Additional criteria for residential buildings added (p. 49) and sizing rules are clearer for small community and mixed-family residential systems.</i>
Section 13. Minimum Leaching System Spread	Appendix A	<i>Minimum Leaching System Spread (MLSS) content, including factor tables, have been moved into the main body of the 2026 Technical Standards. Categories I-III from the 2024 version have been renamed to their respective subsection numbering in the 2026 version (e.g., 13.1.1 – 13.1.3).</i>
Section 14. Nitrogen	N/A	<i>New section addresses nitrogen, nitrogen sensitive areas, and two models for nitrogen assessment (simplified dilution model and dilution model).</i>
Section 15. Groundwater and Surface Water Drainage	IX. Groundwater and Surface Water Drainage	<i>Section content substantively similar; 2026 version features minor reorganization of content into two subsections.</i>
Section 16. Water Treatment Wastewater	X. Water Treatment Wastewater	<i>General standards and requirements for WTW are reorganized and are tied to new PHC Section 19-13-B103g in 2026 version.</i>

2026 Technical Standards	2024 Technical Standards	Major Content Changes
Section 17. Non-Discharging Toilets and Sewage Disposal Systems	XI. Non-Discharging Toilet and Sewage Disposal Systems	<i>Section content is substantively similar with minor terminology changes and regulatory reference updates.</i>
N/A	Forms (#1, #2/#2a, #3, #4)	<i>Required forms #1 (Application for Approval or Permit of an SSDS, or "Permit to Construct"), #2/#2a (Site Investigation for a Subsurface Sewage Disposal System), #3 (Final Inspection Report), and #4 (Permit to Discharge) have been removed from the 2026 Technical Standards document and may instead be found on the EEP webpage. Forms have been uploaded as Word Document and Excel files to facilitate editing and adapting as needed.</i>
Appendices A-D	Appendices A-E	<i>MLSS moved to main body of Technical Standards (Section 13) and forms removed from document in 2026 version; remaining appendices retitled/renumbered accordingly: Appendix A. Effluent Filters, Appendix B. Filter Fabrics, Appendix C. Non-Concrete Tanks, Appendix D. WTW Discharges to SSDSs.</i>

Technical Standards Sections

Section 1. Scope, Usage Guide, and Formatting Overview (**NEW**)

- ☐ Section adds new language that briefly explains new formatting structure and how to use/navigate the document.
- ☐ Disclaimer

Section 2. Acronyms and Abbreviations (**NEW**)

- ☐ List updated and reformatted.
- ☐ Adds BOD5, DOT, IAPMO, and NSF; changes Large SSDS definition from 2,000 to 7,500 GPD to 2,000 to 10,000 GPD; changes PPD to “Proprietary pressure-dosed dispersal system.”

Section 3. Subsurface Sewage Enforcement Officer (Phase I and II) (**NEW**)

- ☐ New section with language stating the authority of the local director of health to designate individuals to conduct regulatory enforcement around subsurface sewage disposal systems, dependent on their current status as Phase I/Phase II certified or as an agent of local health in accordance with the requirements of section 21 of Public Act 26-142 until October 1, 2027.

Section 4. Definitions

- ☐ Removed duplicate definitions defined in B100a and B103. Disclaimer added to specify definitions included in the Technical Standards may include supplemental details to definitions found in the regulations.
- ☐ Revised definitions section to be alphabetically organized.
- ☐ References to “Department” have been revised to “Commissioner.”
- ☐ New definitions added:
 - “Large Subsurface Sewage Disposal System” means a subsurface sewage disposal system serving a building or buildings with a design sewage flow of 2,000 gallons per day or greater.
 - “Multi-Family” for the purposes of SSDS design, as outlined in sections 10 and 11, means 1 or more residential buildings that contain 2 or more distinct housing units, multiple single-family dwellings, or any combination thereof on the same property. “Multi-family” includes a single-family dwelling with an internal accessory apartment or a detached accessory apartment served by a central system.
 - “Sewage Tank” means a septic tank, grease interceptor tank, pump chamber or sewage holding tank.

- ☐ Revisions to existing definitions:
 - ☐ Accessory Structure: has the same meaning as PHC section 19-13-B100a(a); adds below-ground and above-ground pools to definition.
 - ☐ Bedroom: removes “archways” from definition.
 - ☐ Foundation Drain: Specifies interchangeable use of “foundation drain” and/or “footing drain.”
 - ☐ Secondary safety lid: term revised to “Secondary Safety Device;” specifies a “sewage tank access safety device in a riser...”
- ☐ Internal references to TS sections and regulatory citations updated.

Section 5. Location of Septic Systems

- ☐ 5.1 Separating Distances Table 1. Added table disclaimer: Separating distances are based on horizontal measurements except for non-vertical closed loop geothermal system bore holes that are from the closest point of the bore hole.
- ☐ 5.1.1 Cesspools: Cesspools have the same separating distances as leaching systems for Table 1 purposes.
- ☐ 5.3 Storm Water Infiltration Systems (SWIS), reference to PHC section 19-13-B100a(e) removed and replaced with reference to new regulatory language (19-13-B103g(c)).
- ☐ 5.4 Commissioner Exceptions: New subsections added that expand upon minimum criteria required for exception application submittals sent to DPH.
 - ☐ 5.4.1 minimum criteria for small community subsurface sewage disposal system exception applications. Section states that requests for a small community sewage system shall not be approved to connect a new building to an existing SSDS that is not compliant with PHC Sections 19-13-B100a or 19-13-B103.
 - ☐ 5.4.2 minimum criteria for off-site subsurface sewage disposal system exception applications (easements). Includes details on application requirements, such as the submission of an SSDS design plan delineating the easement area; also adds that the boundaries of the easement area are equivalent to property line setback distances found in Table 1.
 - ☐ 5.4.3 minimum criteria for exceptions to separating distance requirements to water supply wells.
- ☐ 5.6 Changed “Record Plan” to “As-Built Plan” to align with language in the revised regulations.
- ☐ 5.7 Retitled subsection from “System Abandonment” to “Unused System Abandonment” and revised subsection language.

- Section 5.7 ties DOH authority to order the abandonment of an unused SSDS or of any hollow component thereof, or cesspool, with PHC Section 19-13-B103e(g)(4). Clarifying language added stating that repurposed structures must be located on a plot plan and noted in property file.
- 5.8 New standalone subsection for central system approvals by DOH. Local health central system approval criteria added, including language on existing system evaluations, and prohibitions on tying into cesspools, steel tanks, or failed/malfunctioning SSDSs.
- Table 1, Item N (Accessory Structures) amended to note the exclusion of above and below ground pools (in accordance with updated definition of “accessory structure” per 19-13-B100a(a). Special provision numbering added when applicable.

Section 6. Piping

- “Drains and Water Supply Piping” subsection separated into three new subsections for clarity: 6.4 Floor Drains; 6.5 Groundwater and Surface Water Drainage Piping; and 6.6 Water Supply Piping.
- Tables 2, 2-A, 2-B, and 3: Removed “use” column from each table and moved content into a numbered list of requirements above each applicable table.

Section 7. Design Flows

- 7.1 Clarifying language added to design flow specifications for residential buildings to account for small community systems.
 - Design flows for residential buildings will be based on the total number of bedrooms on the property (new language).
 - 125 gpd for each bedroom beyond 3 for multi-family residential, bedrooms in separate multi-family residential buildings on the same property, residential outbuildings, and internal/attached accessory apartments.
- 7.2 Nonresidential Buildings and Residential Institutions
 - Removed Metcalf and Eddy citation.
 - Language added regarding “medium strength flows” to utilize application rates from Table 7 for a conservative design.
- Table 4 (Titled “Non-Residential and Residential Institution Design Flows”)
 - Revised references to “large SSDSs” to 2,000-10,000 gpd to align with jurisdictional increase.
 - Revised all restaurant flows to 30 gpd for any food establishment regardless of restrooms offered.
 - Equates restaurants and retail food establishments.
 - Eliminates line item for restaurants with no public toilets.

- Church/Religious social events serving meals now calculated with a design flow of 10 GPD/person.
- Added new categories to Table 4: Banquet Facilities or Gathering Venues (Per Seat), Horse Stables (Per Stall)
 - Banquet Facilities/Gathering Venues (New Category): Base flow of 5 GPD/seat using Table 8 application rate, plus Table 7 additional flows for bar/drink service area, on-site food preparation, and glassware/tableware washing.
 - Recreational Facilities: Horse Stables added at 50 GPD/stall; tennis court categories updated to include pickleball courts.
- 7.3 Water Usage Monitoring: Monitoring plans now apply for large flows between 2,000 to 10,000 gpd. For buildings being served by more than 1 SSDS, domestic sewage flow monitoring required for each system to determine the flow to each system. Whole building monitoring will not be acceptable when 2 or more systems are connected to the same building.
 - Separate subsection for “Management Programs” removed.

Section 8. Septic Tanks and Grease Interceptor Tanks

- Renumbered subsection headers for clarity and usability.
- New subsections under “Septic Tank General”: 8.1.4 Single Septic Tanks; 8.1.5 Multiple Septic Tanks in Series
 - 8.1.5 adds new criteria for satisfying septic tank capacity requirements using up to three tanks in series.
- H-20 wheel loading specified as “meaning a two-axle truck with a vehicle weight of 20 tons as designated for safety by the Connecticut Department of Transportation.”
- Row added to Table 5 for sizing requirements for “Each Bedroom Above 15.”
- Fixtures requiring additional septic tank capacity reformatted into a table.
- Clarifying language added specifying that for establishments with a daily design flow of 2,000 gpd or greater, the two required grease interceptor tanks in series should be of similar size.

Section 9. Effluent Distribution and Pump Systems

- Section retitled from “Effluent Distribution, Pump Systems, and Air Injection Processes” to Effluent Distribution and Pump Systems.
- Language on Leaching System Enhancement/Rejuvenation and Leaching System Clogging Break-Up moved to new Section 11 (Leaching Systems)

Section 10. Percolation Tests

- ☐ Section restructured with new subsection headers (10.1 General, 10.1.1 Placement, 10.1.2 Procedures, 10.1.3 Leaching System Constructed Entirely in Select Fill)

Section 11. Leaching Systems

- ☐ Section content restructured into subsections that more explicit reference material specifications and submittal requirements.
 - ☐ 11.1.3 adds new language on naturally occurring soil for detail/clarity.
 - ☐ 11.1.12.1 ASTM C-33 (Limits for Fine Aggregates) specification table added for washed sieve.
 - ☐ 11.1.12.3 adds detail on requirements for select fill placement while preparing the leaching system area.
 - ☐ 11.1.13 adds detail on requirements for grading and cover over the entire SSDS.
- ☐ Removal of restriction for high-ELA leaching system products (e.g., 7.4 SF/LF) in receiving soils with a percolation rate slower than 30 minutes per inch.
- ☐ Subsection 11.1.5 adds clarifying language specifying that a “reserve leaching area exists during construction and does not need to be maintained beyond the issuance of a permit to discharge.”
- ☐ Proprietary leaching product tables reorganized under individual product subsections; edits made to certain product tables as follows:
 - ☐ Eljen product table edits:
 - “Mantis Yard Filter” renamed to “Yard Filter”
 - Product name corrected from Yard Filter 59 to Yard Filter 95.
 - Center-to-center spacing for Yard Filter 50 corrected from 12 feet to 9 feet.
- ☐ Subsection F (Leaching System Sizing) removed from Section 11 and made into a separate section (see below).
- ☐ Removed content from Section 9 (Effluent Distribution and Pump Systems) and placed into subsections - Leaching System Enhancement and Rejuvenation (Subsection 11.7) and Leaching System Clogging Break-Up (Subsection 11.8).

Section 12. Leaching System Sizing **(NEW)**

- ☐ Leaching system sizing (ELA) information and tables moved out of previous Section VIII (Leaching Systems) into its own section.
- ☐ 12.1 adds additional criteria for sizing leaching systems for residential buildings (line items (e) and (f)).

- Item (e) specifies that small community sewerage systems shall use multi-family criteria for ELA calculations for bedrooms above 3.
- Item (f) specifies that single-family/multi-family criteria shall not be applied until after the third bedroom for any individual SSDS.

Section 13. Minimum Leaching System Spread (MLSS) **(NEW)**

- ☐ Moved from Appendix A to the body of the Technical Standards. MLSS content reorganized and restructured into subsections:
- ☐ 13.1 Overview
- ☐ 13.2 Definitions
- ☐ 13.3 Minimum Leaching System Spread Formula
- ☐ 13.4 Receiving Soil (RS) Depth Calculations
 - MLSS “Categories” renamed to align with new, respective subsection numbering.
 - 13.4.1 SSDS Layouts for New Lot Creations [Previously “Category I”]
 - 13.4.2 New SSDSs, MLSS Compliant Repairs, and Conceptual B100a Areas (Code-Complying and Potential Repair Areas) [Previously “Category II”]
 - 13.4.3 MLSS Non-Compliant Repairs and B100a MLSS Non-Compliant Potential Repair Areas [Previously “Category III”]
- ☐ 13.5 MLSS Calculation Factor Tables

Section 14. Nitrogen **(NEW)**

- ☐ New section 14 addresses nitrogen, nitrogen-sensitive areas, nitrogen assessments and nitrogen dilution models. Content broken into subsections for organization and clarity as follows:
 - 14.2 Nitrogen Sensitive Areas: Coastal Boundary Areas and within 125 feet of an Upland Review Areas per PHC section 19-13-B103.
 - 14.3 Nitrogen Assessment: Subsection specifies acceptable methods of nitrogen assessment based on system size and location. Compliant nitrogen concentration of sewage effluent is specified as 10 mg/L.
 - 14.3.1 Simplified Nitrogen Dilution Model: Model to use for systems sized between 7,500 – 10,000 GPD that are not located in a nitrogen sensitive area. Subsection language specifies criteria considered in the simplified model, average daily cumulative design flows for residential buildings (based on bedroom count), calculation steps, and assumptions built into the simplified model.

- 14.3.2 Nitrogen Dilution Model: Model to use for systems sized between 5,000 – 10,000 GPD that are in a nitrogen sensitive area. Citation/link to DEEP “Guidance for Design of Large-Scale On-Site Wastewater Renovation Systems” added.

Section 15. Groundwater and Surface Water Drainage

- Subsection headers added for clarity: 15.1 Storm Water; 15.2 Groundwater Control Drains
- Clarifying language added regarding required separation distances for Groundwater Control Drains—only required to comply with Items E and G from Table 1. (Language previously located in Section 3).

Section 16. Water Treatment Wastewater

- Section 16 and Appendix D (formerly Appendix E) cover water treatment wastewater. Section language updated with references to new regulation PHC section 19-13-B103g.
- Clarifying language added specifying WTW discharges on lots with a SSDS cumulative design flow of up to 10,000 GPD require a WTW discharge permit from the local DOH.

Section 17. Non-Discharging Toilets and Sewage Disposal Systems

- New “General (Overview of Non-Discharging Sewage Disposal Systems and Application Process)” subsection added (17.1)
- Subsection content adds clarifying language around procedures for application and approval of different categories of non-discharging systems.
- Systems needing to be referred by the local director of health to DPH for additional review and approval are outlined for clarity—specifically, composting toilets, incineration toilets other than those incineration toilets permitted under local director of health approval, chemical toilets inside a building, or sewage holding tanks.
- Clarifying language added to subsection 15.2 Large Capacity Composting Toilets that specifies a code-complying area must exist on the lot, or that a code-complying area shall be installed on a new lot, for a composting toilet to be approved by the Department.
- Categories of composting toilets are established—large composting toilets are those with an interior volume of 64 cubic feet or greater.
- Clarifying language added to subsection 15.8 Sewage Holding Tanks that offers recommendations for holding tank sizing and high-level alarms. Additionally outlines circumstances where sewage holding tanks are prohibited for use (specifically for new lots and for intensification of use on existing developed lots).

Appendices

- Forms 1-4 removed from TS. All local health department Commissioner approved forms will be posted to the website in an easy to edit format.

- MLSS language moved out of Appendix A to its own section; existing appendices renumbered accordingly.
 - Appendix A: Approved Septic Tank Effluent Filters
 - Appendix B: Approved Filter Fabric for Covering Stone Aggregate
 - Appendix C: Approved Non-Concrete Septic Tanks
 - Appendix D: Water Treatment Wastewater Discharges to SSDSs
- Appendix C (Approved Non-Concrete Septic Tanks) new product approvals
 - VPC
 - AK Industries