

## The CVRD Proof of Compliance Role for Septic Systems

Note that the CVRD does not regulate septic systems, and its role is limited to determining proof of compliance for a septic system as defined in the Current CVRD Building Bylaw. Septic systems are regulated by the Province of BC through Ministry of Health regulations.

The following extracts are taken from the “Comox Valley Regional District Building Bylaw No. 142, 2011”:

An application for a building permit shall include copies of approvals required under any enactment relating to health or safety, including, the *Health Act* and subsequent regulations:

- in respect of a system to which section 8(2) of the *Sewerage System Regulation, B.C. Reg. 326/2004*, applies, require all the information required under that section;
- in respect of a system constructed under a permit from the Ministry of Health issued before the coming into effect of the *Sewerage System Regulation, B.C. Reg. 326/2004*, require a report from an authorized person (ROWP or Professional Practitioner) stating that:

***“the system is not malfunctioning and has been appropriately constructed and installed given the size and projected demand on the system to be placed by any buildings or improvements that are served or are to be served by the system.”***

And further the report shall include a signed and sealed copy of the site plan showing the location, dimensions and occupancy of all existing and/or proposed buildings or structures. (Refer also to sections 6.2.7 and 6.2.8 of the BCOSSA *Interim Standard Practice Guidelines for Private Inspectors*.)

## About Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners (ROWP)

Responsibility for the proper design and installation of onsite systems has been transferred from Health Authorities to ‘Authorized Persons’ as defined by the Sewerage System Regulation (SSR).

Health Authorities still play a role in onsite systems, holding records related to sewage systems and enforcing the Regulation to protect public health. However, they do not approve or inspect new installations.

Now, all work on new onsite wastewater systems, repairs to systems and any maintenance on systems constructed after the SSR came into effect in 2005, must be performed by an ‘Authorized Person’. Once a system is installed, upgraded or repaired, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure the system is maintained by an Authorized Person, and is operated within the capabilities and limitations of that system. The *Health Act* definition of *authorized person* includes “Professional Practitioners” such as Professional Engineers (P. Eng.), Hydrologists and Engineering Technicians.

ASTTBC Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners (ROWP) perform maintenance, inspection, design, and installation of onsite wastewater systems. BC Ministry of Health’s Sewerage System Regulation (SSR) stipulates that only Authorized Persons (or an owner supervised by an Authorized Person) may construct or maintain onsite sewage treatment and dispersal systems.

The scope of practice for ROWPs is defined by four endorsements: Planner; Installer; Maintenance Provider; and Private Inspector. ROWPs must be registered with one or more endorsements.

Visit: <https://asttbc.org/registrants/registant-directory/#> or

<https://www.egbc.ca/Registrant-Directory/Professionals-for-Sewerage-System-Regulation>

For more information about Provincial sewerage system regulation visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/sewage/onsite-sewage-systems/onsite-sewage-system-management#authorized-persons>