



DATE: December 6, 2022
TO: Individuals Providing On-Site Wastewater Services in Maryland
FROM: Nony Howell, Program Manager Wastewater Pollution, Prevention and Reclamation Program *Nony Howell*
SUBJECT: Registration to Perform On-Site Wastewater Services in Maryland

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or Department) is contacting you as your name has been provided as an individual or company that performs onsite wastewater services in Maryland. Due to recent legislative changes, individuals who provide on-site wastewater services in the State are subject to newly established licensing requirements. This would include any septic installer, septic pumper, septic hauler, septic designer, property transfer inspector, plumber, operation and maintenance provider, BAT installer, sand mound certified contractor and at-grade certified contractor providing a wastewater service anywhere in the State of Maryland.

New Registration Fee for On-Site Wastewater Service Providers

During the 2022 legislation, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation establishing the State Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals (the Board) within the Department with a provision that until the new licensing requirements are established by the Board, an individual who provides on-site wastewater services in the State may only continue to do so if they pay a \$150 fee to the Department on or before December 31, 2022 and every two years thereafter until the Board and MDE develop full licensing requirements.

Who must pay the registration fee?

Any individual that provides on-site wastewater services must pay the fee. This includes installers, designers, pumpers, and operations and maintenance service providers. If your company has more than one employee that provides these services, each employee needs to pay the fee separately.

Supporting employees do not have to pay a registration fee. For example, if a septic pumping company has 6 trucks performing pumping services each person actually doing the pumping/driving would need to be registered. However, if each truck has supporting staff that provide assistance to the pumper/driver then it would not be necessary to register the supporting staff. As another example, while a septic contractor that performs septic system installations must pay the registration fee, the laborers that assist the contractor with digging or moving materials would not have to pay the registration fee.

I am a plumber that installs septic systems, does this apply to me?

Yes, this registration fee is in addition to your plumbing license.

What happens if I do not pay the fee?

Individuals who do not pay the fee will not be allowed to perform on-site wastewater services in Maryland after December 31, 2022. The Department will provide a listing of all individuals who have registered on our website.

If I don't pay the fee, can I still get a septic construction permit from a County Health Department?

No, if you do not pay the fee, you may not continue to perform any wastewater related service in Maryland after December 31, 2022.

How do I pay the registration fee?

If you are interested in continuing to provide on-site wastewater services in the State, you may complete and submit the enclosed application, along with the fee to MDE. Once your application and the fee are received and approved, MDE will add your name to the website and will forward a confirmation letter to the address you provide.

Property transfer inspectors previously had to pay a \$150 registration fee. Do they have to pay a second time?

During the 2021 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that created a licensing requirement for property transfer inspectors effective July 1, 2022. The Department notified individuals of the property transfer license requirement and those individuals that became licensed will be exempt from paying an additional \$150.00 fee. Those that have not yet paid the fee and wish to continue providing property transfer inspections must pay that \$150.00 fee by December 31, 2022.

How does this affect my county government or local health department license?

This legislation does not pertain to any local requirements, and you will still need to comply with all applicable local licensing requirements.

What can I expect for the future?

State statute requires the On-Site Wastewater Board to be fully operational on or before July 2023 at which time the Board will begin to establish licensing requirements recommendation to the Department. In accordance with the legislation the Department will adopt regulations by July 1, 2025.

If you have additional questions or would like more information, please contact the Wastewater Permits Program, Onsite Systems Division at 410-537-3778.