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## **REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS AND CHEMICAL TOILET OPERATORS**

Any person or firm engaged in the business of pumping septic tanks, holding tanks, grease traps, pit privies or cesspools, or providing or cleaning chemical toilets must operate under permit from the Environmental Health Division (EHD). Any non-permitted sewage pumping companies, vehicles, and/or non-certified drivers caught operating in Contra Costa County may be subject to penalties, citations and/or other legal action. This handout is intended as a general overview of requirements pertaining to such activity but is not a substitute for applicable laws and regulations.

### Permit Process

Individual applications and fees are required for the company (one time only) and each vehicle (renewed annually). A copy of the current vehicle DMV registration, California Driver's License for each operator, and certified weight slip for each vehicle are required with the Septic Tank Pumper application. Upon submittal of the completed application and fees, EHD will inspect the vehicle. EHD will contact you to schedule an inspection.

Sewage pumping companies that are renewing their vehicle permits to operate in Contra Costa County do not need to submit a new application each year, unless changes in the application are necessary. It is the responsibility of sewage pumping companies to insure that each vehicle is covered by an accurate, current

application for an EHD permit. An invoice will be provided listing the sewage pumping company along with each permitted vehicle

### Permit Inspection

The inspection shall consist of a vehicle inspection as well as a written operator examination. A copy of the current California Driver's License for the operator(s) of sewage pumping vehicles will be required at the time of the exam. Inspections will take place at the vehicle inspection Area at Waterbird Way, Pacheco. Inspections can be conducted at your business site if five or more sewage pumping vehicles need permits.

If satisfactory, a permit to operate will be issued. Prominently post the permit sticker on the upper left rear of the vehicle.

### Change of Address

Any permittee changing an address must notify the EHD in writing within two days of such change.

### Reporting of Pumping Activity

Each permittee shall submit to the Health Officer by the tenth of each month a report of previous month's activities in the county. Reports must be on forms supplied by Environmental Health.

### Suspension or Revocation of Permit(s)

Any permit issued may be suspended or revoked by the Health Officer for cause.

### Disposal Sites

All waste must be disposed of at an approved disposal facility. These include:

1. Sewage treatment facilities: a permittee must obtain approval or a permit from a sewerage entity authorizing him to dispose of sewage in its sewage treatment facility and must file a copy with the Health Officer.
2. Refuse disposal sites (garbage dump): a permittee must provide the Health Officer with the name and location of the refuse disposal site(s).
3. Out-of-County sites: When a proposed disposal site is not in Contra Costa County, written approval from the Health Department having jurisdiction of the proposed site must be submitted by the permittee.

*NOTE:* Waste must be disposed of in a manner and at sites approved by the Health Officer. The Health Officer reserves the right to prescribe special disposal requirements for a permittee if problems should arise from his operation. Disposal at sites other than those approved by Environmental Health is a violation of Sections 25000-25010 of the California Health and Safety Code.

#### Pumping and Cleaning Operation

- Each compartment of a septic tank must be pumped whenever it is opened for cleaning.
- Cleaning operations must be conducted in a manner that will not endanger human health or the environment. Any spillage of sewage must be cleaned immediately.

#### Chemical Toilets

- Toilet facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained so as to prevent the access of flies or vermin to the excreta.

- The interior surfaces of all toilet facilities must be of durable, non-absorbent material, smooth, easily cleaned, and finished in a light color.
- Each toilet seat must be smooth, durable, easily cleaned, and non-absorbent.
- The toilet facilities must be ventilated and provided with self-closing doors, lockable from the inside.
- The tanks of chemical toilets must be constructed of durable, easily cleaned material. Tank size must be sufficient to contain the initial chemical charge and provide capacity for at least one day's use for forty persons. A minimum tank capacity of forty gallons must be provided.
- Construction of the tank must be such as to prevent spillage from occurring when tipped or turned over.
- Only biodegradable chemicals, capable of controlling odors, disinfecting, and liquefying solids, must be used in chemical toilets.
- Disposal of contents of chemical toilets must be into an approved disposal site. A copy of a permit to dispose of waste at an approved disposal site must be on file in the County Environment Health Division prior to the rental of any chemical toilet in Contra Costa County.
- Toilet facilities must be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner, free of odor and stains.

- Each chemical toilet must be identified with the name of the company and a unit number. The lettering must be at least three inches in height with strokes at least ½ inch wide.
- Chemical toilets must be stored at a site approved by the Health Officer.

### Pumper Truck Equipment

- Each pumper tank must be of metal construction and must be watertight and splash proof. A measuring device must be provided on each vehicle to measure accurately the contents of the tank.
- Each pumper's pump must be constructed so that there is no leakage, spillage or splashing onto the outer surfaces of the tank or other equipment.
- A leak proof gate valve must be provided on each tank for the discharge or lading of the contents. Vehicles must have a leak proof screw plug or cap on each valve at all times.
- A pipe or hose of sufficient length to extend into a sewer manhole or disposal pit must be provided. The pipe or hose must be completely drained into the manhole or pit to avoid any spillage of contents onto the ground.
- All racks for carrying equipment on the truck must be made of metal.
- All parts of the truck and equipment must be easily cleaned.
- Each permitted vehicle must have the following information printed on both sides of the tank or truck in letters at least 4 inches high with strokes at least ½ inch wide:

- Name and Address of the company
- Capacity of the tank in gallons
  
- Each permittee must have a valid vehicle permit in each vehicle at all times
  
- A permittee must submit information regarding any changes in DMV license plates or equipment to Environmental Health at the times these changes are made.