



Standards Programme

Topic B. Wastewater – collection

1. Details of objectives

Long Term Objectives for Topic – see Project Plan below for details	Responsible Water UK Policy Advisory Group and contact
B.1: To ensure that systems installed are capable of correct operation	Environment - Sarah Mukherjee

Topic	Wastewater - collection	Sub-topics	Cesspits, Septic tanks, Small plant
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These are private systems controlled through the Building Regulations (Part H) and the Building Act. The topic can be divided into the following key stages:

Planning.	The use of private local treatment systems only in areas where they are capable of performing adequately
Design.	The specification of systems that will perform reliably throughout their life.
Construction.	Adequate supervision of construction by building control bodies.
Operation.	Operation of plant, maintenance of the plant is normally the responsibility of householders who do not have training.

Current UK practice

Planning

- The planning of non-mains drainage is covered through the Local Authority Development Control (Planning) system through guidance issued under Planning Circular 03/99 with guidance from the Environment Agency.
- Guidance is also given in the Building Regulations Approved Document H

Design

- Systems are usually specified in accordance with British (BS 6297:1983 & BS7781) and European Standards (EN 12566) and with the guidance in the Building Regulations Approved Document H.

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Construction

- Systems are usually specified in accordance with British (BS 6297:1983) and European Standards (EN 12566) and with the guidance in the Building Regulations Approved Document H.

Operation

- Operations is normally the responsibility of householders
- Operational guidance is provided in Building Regulations Approved Document H.
- The removal of sludge is subject to waste transport and disposal legislation
- Sludge removed is usually taken to a sewage treatment works

Current issues and pressures

- Section 101A of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended by the Environment Act 1995) places a duty on the sewerage undertaker to provide a sewer where a private treatment system is creating an environmental or amenity problem. Even where no duty is established the Undertaker will incur investigation (& associated costs).
- Pressure on DEFRA to look at adoption of shared private treatment systems under Section 105A of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as prospectively amended by Water Act 2003).

Long-term objectives

Objective B.1: To ensure that private treatment systems installed are capable of correct operation

To avoid problems to sewerage undertakers:

- Guidance on the planning of non-mains treatment systems is adequate to ensure that private treatment systems are only installed where they can work without causing an environmental or amenity problem.
- Standards for design and installation of small wastewater treatment systems are adequate so that
 - the systems installed will perform adequately under reasonable levels of maintenance;
 - the systems can be cost effectively managed by the owners or if sewerage undertakers were required to adopt the plants under Section 105A of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as prospectively amended by the Water Act 2003) by the sewerage undertaker.
- Clear guidance is available to householders on the proper operation and maintenance for systems in private ownership;

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2. Project plan to deliver each long-term objective

Objective/Project	Potential collaborator(s)	Topic Advisor, PAG and Contact	Project Activity	Specific activity in 2011/12 including Water UK Networks
Objective B.1: To ensure that systems installed are capable of correct operation				
B.1.1 Guidance on the planning of non-mains treatment systems is adequate to ensure that private treatment systems are only installed where they can work without causing an environmental or amenity problem.	CLG Environment Agency/SEPA/ EHS, LGA, Manufacturers	Environment Sarah Mukherjee	Monitor activity on updates to CLG planning Circular 03/99, CLG Planning policy statement 23, Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidance Note 4 and Building regulations Approved Document H	Review guidance and identify necessary activity.
B.1.2 Standards for design and installation of small wastewater treatment systems are adequate so that; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the systems installed will perform adequately under reasonable levels of maintenance; • the systems can be cost effectively managed by the owners or if sewerage undertakers were required to adopt the plants under Section 105A of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as prospectively amended by the Water Act 2003) by the sewerage undertaker. 	CLG, EA/SEPA/ EHS, Manufacturers	Ken Banfield Environment Sarah Mukherjee	Monitor specifications in UK and European standard. Monitor any proposals for change to Approved Document H.	Attend BSI Committee B/505/41/ P1 Monitor activity and seek representation on working party if appropriate.
B.1.3 Clear guidance is available on operation and maintenance for systems in private ownership.	CLG, EA, Manufacturers	Environment Sarah Mukherjee		Activity allocated to <b style="color: red;">Sewerage Infrastructure Network : Review existing guidance available to system operators

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Objective/Project	Potential collaborator(s)	Topic Advisor, PAG and Contact	Project Activity	Specific activity in 2011/12 including Water UK Networks
				(householders). Identify way forward.