

**CHAPTER 39 - ON-SITE WASTEWATER CONTRACTORS AND INSPECTORS CERTIFICATION
BOARD**

SECTION .0100 - DUTIES AND DEFINITIONS

21 NCAC 39 .0101 DEFINITIONS

In addition to the terms defined in Article 5 of Chapter 90A of the General Statutes, the following definitions apply to the Rules in this Chapter:

- (1) "Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator" means the same as defined in G.S. 130A-336.2(a); hereafter referred to as "evaluator".
- (2) "Building being constructed" means construction of a site-built single family residence constructed pursuant to Article 1, Chapter 87 of the General Statutes.
- (3) "College course" means a semester unit or quarter unit-based instruction given at a college or university that is relevant to on-site wastewater contractor or point-of-sale inspector activities, and is pre-approved by the board as set out in Rule .0602 of this Chapter.
- (4) "Course or Activity" means any course or activity with a purpose and objective that maintains, improves, or expands skills and knowledge relevant to the practice of on-site wastewater contractor or point-of-sale inspector activities and is pre-approved in accordance with G.S. 90A-79(b) and Rule .0602 of this Section.
- (5) "Evaluation" shall include the following information:
 - (a) wastewater characteristics;
 - (b) design unit;
 - (c) design capacity;
 - (d) design volume;
 - (e) criteria for the design, installation, operation, maintenance and performance of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems;
 - (f) soil morphology and drainage;
 - (g) topography and landscape position;
 - (h) depth to seasonally high water table, rock and water impeding formations;
 - (i) proximity to water supply wells, shellfish waters, estuaries, marshes, wetlands, areas subject to flooding, streams, lakes, swamps and other bodies of surface or groundwaters;
 - (j) Density of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems in a geographical area;
 - (k) Other factors that, in the opinion of the evaluator, affect the operation and performance of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems; and
 - (l) Any other information that may be required by G.S. 130A-335(e).
- (6) "Introduction course" means a class required to be eligible to apply for certification.
- (7) "Licensed soil scientist" means an individual licensed in accordance with Chapter 89F of the General Statutes.
- (8) "Notice of Intent to Construct" means, at a minimum, that information required by G.S. 130A-336.2(b) and is provided as a form as set forth in Rule .1102 of this Chapter.
- (9) "Personally supervise" means to direct and control all on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, or private compliance inspector activities during the time those activities are being conducted.
- (10) "Point-of-sale inspector" means a person who performs an inspection of an on-site wastewater system as part of a real estate transaction.
- (11) "Private compliance inspector" means the same as defined in G.S. 90A-71(10).
- (12) "Professional development hour" or "PDH" means an hour of instruction or presentation and is the basic unit of credit for all courses or activities related to satisfying continuing education requirements.
- (13) "Repair" means construction activity or alteration to an existing on-site wastewater system that is necessary to comply with a Construction Authorization for a repair permit issued by the Local Health Department or through the Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator option pursuant to G.S. 130A-336.2.
- (14) "Seal" means the seal required by G.S. 130A-336.2(d)(2) for certified Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator.
- (15) "Subordinate" means the same as defined in G.S. 89F-3(10).

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-71; 90A-72; 90A-74; 130A-336.2; Eff. February 1, 2011; Amended Eff. January 1, 2016; January 1, 2013; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0102 TYPES OF CERTIFICATION

(a) The levels of certification for on-site wastewater contractors are as follows:

Level	Description of Activities
II	Single Septic Tank, Conventional (Gravel) Gravity System
IV	Grade II, plus: Dual pumps or Dual Siphons, Low-Pressure Dispersal, Flow Equalization, and any system requiring ground water lowering with a pump, Systems of > 1500 gdp, Multiple Off-Site Systems, Industrial Process Wastewater, Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems (RWTS), TS-I and TS-II System, Drip Dispersal Systems, and Wastewater Reuse Systems or any Pretreatment Component.

(b) Point-of-sale inspectors and private compliance inspectors are certified to inspect all on-site wastewater systems referenced in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Evaluators certified by the Board pursuant to G.S. 130A-336.2(a) shall comply with the standards set forth in G.S. 130A-336.2.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 130A-336.2; Eff. February 1, 2011; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;. Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0103 ANNUAL REPORTS

(a) On or before October 31 of each year, the Board shall prepare and file reports required pursuant to G.S. 93B-2. The Board shall file reports in the manner requested by the receiving agency or committee.

(b) The Board shall maintain an escrow account. Fees tendered during a period of suspension under G.S. 93B-2(d) shall be deposited into this escrow account.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 93B-2; Eff. July 1, 2019; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0200 - CERTIFICATION OF ON-SITE WASTEWATER CONTRACTORS, POINT-OF-SALE INSPECTORS, PRIVATE COMPLIANCE INSPECTORS, OR AUTHORIZED ON-SITE WASTEWATER EVALUATORS

21 NCAC 39 .0201 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

(a) Applications for certification shall be submitted on forms provided by the Board.

- (1) Applications for a contractor or point-of-sale inspector shall include:
 - (A) Applicant's name;
 - (B) Company address;
 - (C) Phone number;
 - (D) Date of birth;
 - (E) Email address, if available;
 - (F) Company or employer name and address;

- (G) Company phone number;
 - (H) County where company is located;
 - (I) If the certification is for contractor or point-of-sale inspector;
 - (J) The contractor certification level, if applicable;
 - (K) Certification number, if renewal;
 - (L) Required certification fee, as specified in Rule .0301 of this Chapter;
 - (M) Dates, locations, hours, and providers of required education and training;
 - (N) Applicant signature;
 - (O) Copy of Applicant's Social Security Card issued by the United States Social Security Administration, bearing Applicant's name and Social Security Number;
 - (P) Grade Level IV or point-of-sale Inspector verification of experience requirements as specified in G.S. 90A-77;
 - (Q) Copy of attendance certificate for required education received within 12 months of date of application; and
 - (R) Exam application.
- (2) Applications for evaluator shall include:
- (A) Applicant's name;
 - (B) Company address;
 - (C) Phone number;
 - (D) Date of birth;
 - (E) Email address, if available;
 - (F) Company or employer name and address;
 - (G) Company phone number;
 - (H) County where company is located;
 - (I) Required certification fee, as specified in Rule .0301 of this Chapter;
 - (J) Copy of attendance certificate for required education received within 12 months of date of application;
 - (K) Copy of current Errors and Omission Policy declaration page, as required by G.S. 130A-336.2;
 - (L) Copy of current General Liability Policy declarations page, as required by G.S. 130A-336.2;
 - (M) Copy of current Soil Scientist License pursuant to Chapter 89F;
 - (N) Verification of minimum of five years' experience in on-site wastewater soil science;
 - (O) Applicant signature;
 - (P) Copy of Applicant's Social Security Card issued by the United States Social Security Administration, bearing Applicant's name and Social Security Number; and
 - (Q) Exam application.
- (3) Applications for private compliance inspector shall include:
- (A) Applicant's name;
 - (B) Company address;
 - (C) Phone number;
 - (D) Date of birth;
 - (E) Email address, if available;
 - (F) Company or employer name and address;
 - (G) Company phone number;
 - (H) County where company is located;
 - (I) Required certification fee, as specified in Rule .0301 of this Chapter;
 - (J) Copy of attendance certificate for required education received within 12 months of date of application;
 - (K) Copy of current Errors and Omission Policy and General Liability Policy declaration page, as required by G.S. 130A-337(a2)(2);
 - (L) The name and address of the places at which applicant worked as a certified contractor, evaluator, subsurface operator, or registered environmental health specialist with experience in on-site wastewater matters for at least five years, along with the dates during which the applicant performed such work;
 - (M) Applicant signature;

- (N) Copy of Applicant's Social Security Card issued by the United States Social Security Administration, bearing Applicant's name and Social Security Number; and
 - (O) Exam application.
- (b) Applications for renewal shall be submitted annually on forms provided by the Board and shall include:
- (1) Certification holder's name;
 - (2) Company name;
 - (3) Company address;
 - (4) Certification number(s)
 - (5) Copy of required continuing education documentation;
 - (6) Annual renewal fee, as specified in Rule .0301 of this Chapter;
 - (7) Current copies of all required insurance declarations pages;
 - (8) Evaluators will also submit a current copy of their Licensed Soil Scientist license; and
 - (9) Applicant signature.
- (c) Incomplete applications and applications not accompanied by the fee as set forth in Rule .0301 of this Chapter shall not be processed and shall be returned to the applicant.
- (d) Upon approval of an initial application pursuant to the requirements of this Chapter, the Board shall schedule an applicant to take the required examination.
- (e) In cases where the applicant is ineligible for examination as set forth in G.S. 90A-77, the applicant shall be notified by letter and advised of the reason for ineligibility.
- (f) Applicants who have supplied false information must wait 12 months before resubmitting an application for certification or renewal and must forfeit all fees paid.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-78; 93B-14; 130A-336.2;
 Eff. February 1, 2011;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0202 BUSINESS SUCCESSION

- (a) A person shall be certified by the Board pursuant to G.S. 90A-77(c) upon:
- (1) Providing the Board documentation of supervision by and full-time employment with a Board certified contractor or point-of-sale inspector for the past three years;
 - (2) Providing the Board three affidavits from local health departments as defined by G.S. 130A-34, engineers, or customers describing the applicant's involvement with the installation of on-site wastewater systems;
 - (3) Providing the Board with an application for certification, including appropriate initial fees;
 - (4) Providing the Board with proof of attendance at approved continuing education courses for a minimum of two years; and
 - (5) Passing the applicable test for the certification requested.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 90A-77;
 Eff. January 1, 2013;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0300 - ONSITE WASTEWATER CONTRACTOR, POINT-OF-SALE INSPECTOR, PRIVATE COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR, OR EVALUATOR FEES

21 NCAC 39 .0301 SCHEDULE OF CERTIFICATION FEES

- (a) Application fees are as follows:

Grade Level	Initial Fee	Renewal Fee
II	\$200.00	\$75.00
IV	\$300.00	\$75.00

Point-of-Sale Inspector Certification	\$200.00	\$75.00
On-site Wastewater Evaluator	\$300.00	\$100.00
Private Compliance Inspector	\$300.00	\$100.00

- (b) Application fees shall not be pro-rated.
- (c) The fee for re-instatement of a revoked or suspended certification is five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- (d) The fee for certificate replacement or duplication is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
- (e) The fee for late renewal is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). This fee is charged if the renewal request is received after November 15.
- (f) The fee for each returned check is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
- (g) All fees are non-refundable.

History Note: Authority G.S. 25-3-506; 90A-72(a); 90A-74; 90A-75; 90A-77(f); 90A-78(b); 130A-336.2; Eff. February 1, 2011; Amended Eff. January 1, 2016; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0400 - CERTIFICATION BY EXAMINATION

21 NCAC 39 .0401 ON-SITE WASTEWATER CONTRACTOR, POINT-OF-SALE INSPECTOR, PRIVATE COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR, OR EVALUATOR EXAMINATIONS

- (a) On-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator examinations shall be standardized statewide and include the topics described in G.S. 90A-77(a)(7).
- (b) The exam questions shall be specific to the certification being sought by the applicant.
- (c) Any applicant seeking multiple certifications shall take and pass each exam specific to the certifications being sought.
- (d) Each applicant shall obtain a passing score of at least 70 percent as a requirement of certification. Results of the examination shall be reported as either "pass" or "fail."

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 130A-336.2; Eff. February 1, 2011; Amended Eff. January 1, 2016; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0402 TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATION

- (a) The Board may schedule on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator examinations in addition to the required examinations pursuant to G.S. 90A-77. Additional examinations may be scheduled by the Board if the Board determines that the three scheduled examinations are insufficient due to the number of applicants for examination or the time between examinations. Information regarding the date, time, and place of all exams shall be made available on the Board's web site or upon request.
- (b) The Board shall notify each applicant filing for examination in writing of the date, time, and place of the examination.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 130A-336.2; Eff. February 1, 2011; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;

Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0403 CONDUCTING AND GRADING EXAMINATIONS

- (a) Examinations shall be conducted and graded under the supervision of a representative of the Board.
- (b) Applicants shall identify themselves by way of a driver's license or other form of photographic identification issued by a state or federal government agency containing an identification number and the government-issued identification number appearing on the identification shall be recorded.
- (c) Applicants shall not cheat or attempt to cheat on an examination by any means, including both giving and receiving assistance, and shall not communicate in any manner for any purpose other than with an examination supervisor during an examination. Applicants shall not deliberately disrupt the quiet and orderly administration of an examination in any manner. Violation of this Paragraph is cause for dismissal from the examination, invalidation of examination scores, denial of certification and revocation of certification if the person is certified.
- (d) No electronics, reference materials, or bags shall be possessed by applicants in an examination area.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-81;
Eff. February 1, 2011;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.*

21 NCAC 39 .0404 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES

- (a) After an examination grading, the applicant shall be informed in writing by Board staff as to the results of his or her examination. The Board shall not respond to requests for exam results.
- (b) Upon successful completion of the examination and all requirements for certification the applicant shall be issued a certification card.
- (c) Questions by the applicant concerning the examination must be made in writing to the Board within six months of the date of notification of exam results.
- (d) An applicant who fails to pass an examination shall be entitled to and notified of the privilege to review his or her examination in the presence of one or more Board members or Board staff at a location approved by the Board.
- (e) Each certified on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall be assigned a unique certification number. Certification numbers are not transferable and shall not be used by another onsite wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator.
- (f) Upon certification by the Board, each evaluator shall be issued a seal by the Board.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 130A-336.2;
Eff. February 1, 2011;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.*

21 NCAC 39 .0405 LICENSURE FOR MILITARY-TRAINED APPLICANT; LICENSURE FOR MILITARY SPOUSE

- (a) Upon receipt of a request for licensure pursuant to G.S. 93B-15.1 from a military-trained applicant, the Board shall issue a license upon the applicant's satisfying the following conditions:
 - (1) Submit a complete Application for Certification, as required by Rule .0201 of this Chapter.
 - (2) Submit a license fee in accordance with G.S. 90A-75 and Rule .0301 of this Chapter;
 - (3) Provide documentation to satisfy conditions set out in G.S. 93B-15.1(a)(1) and (2);
 - (4) For evaluator, provide documentation from the N.C. Board for Licensing of Soil Scientists that demonstrates that requirements set out in G.S. 89F-10 have been satisfied; and
 - (5) Provide documentation that the applicant has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would constitute grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of an occupational license in North Carolina at the time the act was committed.
- (b) Upon receipt of a request for licensure pursuant to G.S. 93B-15.1 from a military spouse, the Board shall issue a license upon the applicant's satisfying the following conditions:
 - (1) Submit a complete Application for Certification, as required by Rule .0201 of this Chapter.

- (2) Submit a license fee in accordance with G.S. 90A-75 and Rule .0301 of this Chapter;
- (3) Submit documentation demonstrating that the applicant is married to an active member of the U.S. military;
- (4) Provide documentation to satisfy conditions set out in G.S. 93B-15.1(b)(1) and (2);
- (5) For evaluator, provide documentation from the N.C. Board for Licensing of Soil Scientists that demonstrates that requirements set out in G.S. 89F-10 have been satisfied; and
- (6) Provide documentation that the applicant has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would constitute grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of an occupational license in North Carolina at the time the act was committed.

History Note: Authority: G.S. 90A-74; 90A-75; 93B-15.1; 130A-336.2;
 Eff. April 1, 2014;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0500 - CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

21 NCAC 39 .0501 CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATIONS

- (a) Certifications shall expire on December 31 of each year.
- (b) A renewal shall not be granted if the applicant's certification is suspended or revoked until the period for such suspension or revocation has expired.
- (c) Certified individuals under this program shall notify the Board in writing within 30 days of any changes to their name, company name, company address, phone number, or email address.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-78;
 Eff. February 1, 2011;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0600 - CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

21 NCAC 39 .0601 REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Every certified on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall obtain Professional Development Hours (PDH) units before each renewal of his or her certification, as described in the following table:

Level	Annual PDH Units Required
II	3
IV	6
Point-of-Sale Inspector	6
Certification Holders of Both Contractor Grade Level and Point-of-Sale Inspector	6
Evaluator	12
Private Compliance Inspector	12

- (b) The certified on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall select courses and activities that have been approved as set out in Rule .0602 of this Chapter.
- (c) Only PDH approved by the Board pursuant to Rule .0602 shall qualify as continuing education required to renew a certification, as set forth in G.S. 90A-78.
- (d) Each on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall attend at least 85 percent of the class in order to receive credit. Any attendee present for less time shall not receive credit for the class. The class provider or authorized representative shall certify by affidavit or attestation that each class attendee meets the requirement of this Paragraph.
- (e) PDH received annually in excess of required PDH shall not be carried forward for future requirements.
- (f) PDH shall expire fifteen months after completion.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-78; 90A-79; 130A-336.2;
 Eff. February 1, 2011;
 Amended Eff. January 1, 2016; January 1, 2013;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0602 APPROVAL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

- (a) All continuing education courses shall be approved by the Board before PDH can be granted.
- (b) Providers must submit all continuing education courses to the Board to be approved on an annual basis.
- (c) The Board shall approve courses in accordance with G.S. 90A-79 that instruct on on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator activities and that enhance a contractor's, point-of-sale inspector's, private compliance inspector's, or evaluator's knowledge of construction, installation, repair, evaluation or inspection of wastewater systems. The Board shall determine which courses and activities result in the maintenance, improvement, or expansion of skills and knowledge related to the practice of on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator activities. Providers may request approval of courses or activities from the Board by obtaining and completing a form available on the Board's website (www.ncowcicb.info) that provides the following information:
 - (1) Course content;
 - (2) Course schedule;
 - (3) Level of instruction provided such as Level II, IV, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator;
 - (4) Qualifications of instructors including both education and experience; and
 - (5) Materials provided, field experiences, and other activities available in connection with the course(s).

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-78; 90A-79; 130A-336.2;
 Eff. February 1, 2011;
 Amended Eff. January 1, 2016;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0603 DETERMINATION OF CREDIT

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-78; 90A-79;
 Eff. February 1, 2011;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Repealed Eff. June 1, 2021.

21 NCAC 39 .0604 RECORDKEEPING

Each contractor, point of sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall maintain records of any completed PDH courses including the following:

- (1) A log showing the type of activity claimed, sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructors or speaker's name, and PDH credits earned; or
- (2) Attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates or other documents supporting evidence of attendance.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-78; 90A-79; 130A-336.2; Eff. February 1, 2011; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0605 EXTENSION OF TIME

(a) The Board shall grant an on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator an extension of time to complete continuing education (CE) requirements during a period of service in the Armed Forces of the United States upon submission of the following to the Board:

- (1) written request for extension; and
- (2) documentation that the requestor is serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and is eligible for an extension of time to file a tax return pursuant to G.S. 105-249.2.

(b) The Board shall grant an on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator an extension of time to complete CE requirements if he or she has a disability or illness that prevents him or her from complying with CE requirements. In order to receive the waiver, the requestor shall provide the Board with the following:

- (1) written request for waiver; and
- (2) a letter from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner (NP), or physician assistant (PA) that describes the requestor's disability or illness and explains how the disability or illness prevents the contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator from complying with the Board's CE requirements.

(c) Where on a case-by-case basis the Board determines that due to an undue hardship (such as natural disaster or illness of family member) the contractor, point-of-sale inspector, or private compliance inspector, evaluator could not comply with the Board's CE requirements, the contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall be granted an extension of time in which to obtain the required CE credits. To be considered for an extension of time, a requestor shall submit the following:

- (1) written request for extension; and
- (2) documentation that supports the reason for the extension.

(d) The Board shall grant a waiver of CE requirements upon submission of documentation that a contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator is in active duty while serving in the Armed Forces and is or has been deployed for at least eight months during the twelve-month period during which CE credits were required.

(e) An extension granted under Paragraphs (b) or (c) of this Rule shall not exceed one year. Prior to the expiration of the extension of time, a contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator may request an additional extension in accordance with this Rule. Except as set out in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the Board shall grant no more than two consecutive extensions.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-77; 90A-78; 90A-79; 93B-15; 130A-336.2; Eff. February 1, 2011; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0700 - PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

21 NCAC 39 .0701 REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATION

(a) The Board may revoke or suspend the certification of an on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 90A-80, 90A-81, and Article 3A of Chapter of 150B of the General Statutes. For holders of multiple certifications, the Board may revoke or suspend either or all certifications.

(b) Following a revocation or suspension, a certificate holder shall relinquish his or her certificate or seal by submission to the Board of the original certificate or seal and a notarized statement of relinquishment within 30 days of revocation or suspension.

(c) The Board may restrict the certificate of an on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, or evaluator upon receiving a complaint and making a finding that the evidence tends to show that the certificate holder has violated G.S. 90A-81(a). Written notice of the restriction that limits the ability of the certificate holder, in whole or in part, to supervise or conduct the construction, installation, repair, evaluation, or inspection of on-site wastewater systems shall be delivered in accordance with the provisions of service in G.S. 150B-42. A copy of the letter shall be kept in the on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator's file. The on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall be given the opportunity to request a hearing by submission of a rebuttal, which shall be placed into the file with the Board. The Board shall receive the letter of rebuttal within 30 days of the on-site wastewater contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator's receipt of the notice of restriction. Upon receipt of a certificate holder's rebuttal, the Board shall provide the certificate holder with an opportunity for a hearing by issuing a notice of hearing pursuant to G.S. 150B-38(d).

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-80; 90A-81; 130A-336.2;
Eff. February 1, 2011;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2016;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0702 CERTIFICATION FOLLOWING REVOCATION OR VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATION

(a) If a certification is revoked or voluntarily surrendered the person may not apply for a new certification for a period of 12 months from the date the certification is revoked or voluntarily surrendered.

(b) An individual whose certification was revoked or voluntarily surrendered may apply to the Board for reinstatement after the 12 month period has ended.

(c) An individual applying for reinstatement must meet all the requirements for a new applicant as specified in Article 5 of G.S. 90A and the rules adopted by the Board.

(d) Applicants denied reinstatement by the Board may appeal the decision pursuant to the procedures for an administrative hearing contained in G.S. 150B, Article 3A.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-80; 90A-81;
Eff. February 1, 2011;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0703 PENALTIES

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74; 90A-80; 90A-81;
Eff. February 1, 2011;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Repealed Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0800 – ONSITE WASTEWATER CONTRACTOR, INSPECTOR, OR EVALUATOR CODE OF ETHICS

21 NCAC 39 .0801 CODE OF ETHICS

- (a) Contractors, point-of-sale inspectors, private compliance inspectors, and evaluators shall at all times recognize their primary obligation is to protect the public in the performance of their professional duties and shall conduct the practice of those duties in a manner that protects the public health, safety and welfare.
- (b) Professional opinions expressed by contractors, point-of-sale inspectors, private compliance inspector, or evaluators in the discharge of their duties shall only be based on their education and experience.
- (c) No contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall disclose any information about the results of an inspection or evaluation without the approval of the client for whom the inspection or evaluation was performed, or the client's designated representative, except as required by law.
- (d) No contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall accept compensation or any other consideration from more than one interested party for the same service without the consent of all interested parties.
- (e) No contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall accept or offer commissions or allowances, directly or indirectly, from or to other parties dealing with the client in connection with work for which the licensee is responsible.
- (f) No contractor, point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or evaluator shall provide an appraisal nor express an opinion of the market value of the inspected property during an inspection or in the inspection report.
- (g) Before the execution of a contract to perform an on-site wastewater system point-of-sale inspection, a point-of-sale inspector shall disclose to the client any interest the point-of-sale inspector has in a business that may affect the client. No licensee shall allow his or her interest in any business to affect the quality or results of the inspection work that the inspector may be called upon to perform.
- (h) Before the execution of a contract to perform, construct, or repair an on-site wastewater system installation, a contractor shall disclose to the client any interest a contractor has in a business that may affect the client. No licensee shall allow his or her interest in any business to affect the quality or results of the installation work that the contractor may be called upon to perform.
- (i) Before the execution of a contract to perform an on-site wastewater system evaluation, an evaluator shall disclose to the client any interest the evaluator has in a business that may affect the client. No evaluator shall allow his or her interest in any business to affect the quality or results of the evaluation work that the evaluator may be called upon to perform. Pursuant to G.S. 130A-336.2(d)(1), the evaluator shall not form a direct business relationship with any technology.
- (j) Before execution of a contract to perform an on-site wastewater system private compliance inspection, the private compliance inspector shall disclose to the client any interest the private compliance inspector has in a business that may affect the client. No private compliance inspector shall allow his or her interest in any business to affect the quality or results of the private compliance inspection that the private compliance inspector may be called upon to perform.
- (k) Contractors shall not knowingly or willfully install a non-permitted system.
- (l) Contractors shall not knowingly or willfully install a system or any part of a system other than what is specified in the permit.
- (m) Contractors, point-of-sale inspectors, private compliance inspector, and evaluators shall not engage in false or misleading advertising, documentation, and reporting or otherwise misrepresent any matters to the public.
- (n) Contractors, point-of-sale inspectors, private compliance inspector, and evaluators shall discharge their duties in accordance with Article 5 of Chapter 90A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules of the Board.
- (o) No point-of-sale inspector shall subcontract with another point-of-sale inspector for an on-site wastewater system inspection without the knowledge and signed consent of the client.
- (p) The contractor shall be the responsible party for an on-site wastewater system installation or repair that is permitted through the local health department or evaluator.
- (q) The evaluator shall be responsible for the work conducted by a subordinate.
- (r) The evaluator shall not perform any of the functions performed by a professional engineer for engineered wastewater systems described in G.S. 130A-336.1.
- (s) Evaluators who fail to comply with G.S. 89F-19 and have their soil scientist license revoked or suspended shall also have their authorization as an evaluator revoked or suspended.
- (t) Employees of a local health department or DHHS shall not construct, install, evaluate, inspect, or repair, or offer to construct, install, evaluate, inspect, or repair, onsite wastewater systems outside of their employment with a local health department or DHHS.

- (u) Evaluators shall not perform duties of contractors, point-of-sale inspectors, or private compliance inspectors on any system on which they are the evaluator.
- (v) The private compliance inspector shall be responsible for the work conducted by a subordinate.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-70; 90A-72; 90A-74; 130A-336.2;
Eff. November 1, 2011;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2016;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2021; June 1, 2021;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0802 COOPERATION WITH BOARD INQUIRY

The Board has the power and duty to conduct investigations to determine whether violations of Article 5 of Chapter 90A of the General Statutes have occurred or may be occurring, or whether grounds exist for disciplining persons certified under Article 5 of Chapter 90A of the General Statutes. A certificate holder shall respond to any such inquiry made by the Board within 21 days from the date the inquiry was received by the certificate holder.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74(6) and (9); 90A-80;
Eff. July 1, 2019;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0803 DELEGATING TO THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS

- (a) If a certificate holder delegates service requested by a client to another certificate holder, the delegating certificate holder must give notice to the client on or before the date of service.
- (b) The certificate holder who delegates service as set forth in this Rule accepts responsibility for the quality and competency of the delegated services when the delegating certificate holder either receives payment for the delegated services or signs an evaluation or inspection report related to the delegated services.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74(6);
Eff. July 1, 2019;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .0900 – RULEMAKING PROCEDURES

21 NCAC 39 .0901 PETITION FOR RULE-MAKING

- (a) Any person submitting a petition to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule by the Board shall address a petition to the Chairman at the Board office as follows: Post Office Box 132, Lawsonville, North Carolina 27022.
- (b) The petition shall contain the following:
 - (1) for petitions to adopt or amend a rule, a draft of the proposed rule or amendment;
 - (2) a statement of the effect of the requested rule change; and
 - (3) the name and address of the petitioner.
- (c) The petition may contain the following:
 - (1) the reason for the proposal; or
 - (2) any data supporting the rule proposal.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 150B-20;
Eff. July 1, 2019;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0902 REQUEST FOR DECLARATORY RULING

All requests for a declaratory ruling shall contain the following information:

- (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the request;
- (2) the statute or rule to which the request relates; and
- (3) a statement describing the manner in which the person has been or may be aggrieved by the statute or rule.

If a hearing is desired, the request shall so state and shall include the reason a hearing is desired.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 150B-4(a);
Eff. July 1, 2019;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0903 REFUSAL TO ISSUE DECLARATORY RULING

The Board shall refuse to issue a declaratory ruling under the following circumstances:

- (1) when the Board has issued a decision in a contested case that interprets the law or rule at issue in the request for declaratory ruling;
- (2) when the facts underlying the request for a ruling on a rule were considered at the time of the adoption of the rule in question; or
- (3) when the subject matter of the request is involved in pending litigation in North Carolina.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 150B-4;
Eff. July 1, 2019;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .0904 WAIVER OR EXTENSION

The Board may waive or extend any rule in this Chapter that is not statutorily required if a certificate holder submits to the Board a written request. Factors the Board shall use in determining whether to grant the waiver or extension are:

- (1) degree of disruption to the Board;
- (2) cost to the Board;
- (3) degree of benefit to the public;
- (4) whether the requesting party had control over the circumstances that required the requested waiver or extension;
- (5) notice to and opposition by the public;
- (6) need for the waiver or extension; and
- (7) previous requests for waivers or extensions submitted from the requesting party.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 150B-19(6);
Emergency Adoption Eff. May 20, 2020;
Temporary Adoption Eff. July 24, 2020;
Eff. June 1, 2021;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

SECTION .1000 - NC ON-SITE WASTEWATER INSPECTOR STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

21 NCAC 39 .1001 DEFINITIONS

As used in this Section:

- (1) "Automatic safety controls" means devices designed and installed to protect systems and components from excessively high or low pressures and temperatures, excessive electrical current, loss of water, high water, fire, freezing, or other unsafe conditions.
- (2) "Component" means a readily accessible and observable part of an on-site wastewater system.
- (3) "Cross connection" means any physical connection or arrangement between potable water and the on-site wastewater system or any other source of contamination.
- (4) "Dangerous or adverse situations" means situations that pose a threat of injury to the inspector, or those situations that require the use of special protective clothing or safety equipment, such as personal protection equipment.
- (5) "Describe" means to create a written report of a condition found within the system or any observed component of the inspected system.
- (6) "Dismantle" means to take apart or remove any component, device, or piece of equipment that is bolted, screwed, or fastened by other means that would not be taken apart or removed by a homeowner or operator in the course of normal household maintenance.

- (7) "Enter" means to go into an area to inspect all readily accessible, readily openable, and readily visible components.
- (8) "Hydraulic Load Test" means the introduction of water or waste water into a system for the purposes of mimicking the system's peak flows.
- (9) "Inflow" means extraneous water directly entering a component, such as via a sump pump, foundation drain, condensate line, or infiltration.
- (10) "Normal operating controls" means certified operator or homeowner-operated devices.
- (11) "Normal wear and tear" means superficial blemishes or defects that do not interfere with the functionality of the component or system.
- (12) "Operate" means to cause systems or equipment to function.
- (13) "Readily accessible" means approachable or enterable for inspection without the risk of damage to any property or alteration of the accessible space, equipment, or opening.
- (14) "Readily openable access panel" means a panel provided for homeowner or certified operator maintenance and operation that has removable or operable fasteners or latch devices in order to be lifted off, swung open, or otherwise removed for inspection. This definition is limited to those wastewater system components not blocked by stored items, furniture, building components or landscaping.
- (15) "Readily visible" means seen by using natural or artificial light without the use of equipment or tools other than a probe, flashlight, or mirror.
- (16) "Roof drainage systems" means gutters, downspouts, leaders, splash blocks, and similar parts used to carry water off a roof and away from a building.
- (17) "Shut down" means a condition or conditions wherein a piece of equipment or system cannot be operated by the device or control that a homeowner should normally use to operate it. If its safety switch or circuit breaker is in the "off" position, or its fuse is missing or blown, the inspector is not required to reestablish the circuit for the purpose of operating the equipment or system.
- (18) "Statement of responsibility" means a signed and dated document, from the contractor to the system owner, that acknowledges the requirements of the onsite wastewater system specified by the evaluator.
- (19) "Structural component" means a wastewater system component that supports non-variable forces or weights (dead loads) and variable forces or weights (live loads), such as a control panel support, septic tank, D-box, or manifold.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-71; 90A-74: 130A-336.2;
 Eff. October 1, 2011;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2021;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .1002 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS AND POINT-OF-SALE INSPECTORS

- (a) Point-of-sale inspectors shall:
- (1) Provide to the client or the client's representative a written contract, signed by both the client or client's representative and the point-of-sale inspector, before the on-site wastewater system inspection is performed that:
 - (A) States that the on-site wastewater system inspection is conducted in accordance with Rules .1004, .1005, and .1006 of this Section; and
 - (B) Describes what services shall be provided and their cost;
 - (2) Obtain written permission from the owner or owner's representative to perform the inspection;
 - (3) Inspect readily openable and accessible installed systems and components listed in Rule .1005 of this Section;
 - (4) Submit a written report to the client or client's representative within 10 business days of the inspection that:
 - (A) Describes those systems and components required to be described in Rules .1005 through .1006 of this Section;

- (B) States which systems and components designated for inspection in this Section have been inspected, and state any systems or components designated for inspection that were not inspected, and the reason for not inspecting. Failure to locate the system or components for inspection or "could not locate" shall not be the same as "not visible." If the system or component is not located, the written report shall state the failure to locate the system or components for inspection or "could not locate;"
 - (C) States any systems or components inspected that do not function as intended or harm the wastewater treatment system;
 - (D) States whether the condition reported requires repair or subsequent observation, or warrants further evaluation by the local health department. The statements shall describe the component or system and how the condition is defective, explain the consequences of the condition, and refer the recipient to the local health department or a certified on-site wastewater contractor; and
 - (E) States the name, license number, and signature of the certified point-of-sale inspector;
- (5) Maintain records for a period of seven years.
- (b) Contractors that contract with an owner of a system permitted by an evaluator in accordance with G.S. 130A-336.2 shall:
- (1) Submit to the evaluator and Board the insurance declaration page verifying errors and omissions, liability, or other coverage, as appropriate for the system designed, prior to commencing installation;
 - (2) Be responsible for all aspects of the construction and installation of the wastewater system and its components, including adherence to specifications and any special inspections that are prepared, signed, and sealed by the evaluator; and
 - (3) Submit a dated and signed statement of responsibility to the owner of the wastewater system, prior to commencement of work.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-71; 90A-72; 90A-74; 130A-336.2; Eff. October 1, 2011; Amended Eff. January 1, 2016; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. June 1, 2021; Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .1004 GENERAL EXCLUSIONS FOR CONTRACTORS AND POINT-OF-SALE INSPECTORS

- (a) Point-of-sale inspectors shall not be required to report on:
 - (1) Life expectancy of any component or system;
 - (2) The causes of the need for a repair;
 - (3) The methods, materials, and costs of corrections;
 - (4) The suitability of the property for any specialized use;
 - (5) The market value of the property or its marketability;
 - (6) The advisability or inadvisability of purchase of the property; or
 - (7) Normal wear and tear to the system.
- (b) Point-of-sale inspectors shall not be required to:
 - (1) Identify property lines;
 - (2) Offer warranties or guarantees of any kind;
 - (3) Calculate the strength, adequacy, or efficiency of any system or component;
 - (4) Operate any system or component that does not respond to normal operating controls;
 - (5) Move vegetation, structures, personal items, panels, furniture, equipment, snow, ice, or debris that obstructs access to or visibility of the system and any related components;
 - (6) Determine the presence or absence of any suspected adverse environmental condition or hazardous substance, including toxins, carcinogens, noise, and contaminants in the building or in soil, water, and air;
 - (7) Determine the effectiveness of any system installed to control or remove suspected hazardous substances;

- (8) Predict future condition, including failure of components;
 - (9) Project operating costs of components;
 - (10) Evaluate acoustical characteristics of any system or component; or
 - (11) Inspect equipment or accessories that are not listed as components to be inspected in this Section.
- (c) Point-of-sale inspectors, private compliance inspectors, and Contractors shall not:
- (1) Offer or perform any act or service contrary to Article 5 of G.S. 90A or the rules of this Chapter; or
 - (2) Offer or perform engineering, architectural, plumbing, electrical, pesticide or any other job function requiring an occupational license in the jurisdiction where the inspection, installation, or repair is taking place, unless the on-site wastewater system point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or contractor holds a valid occupational license in that field, in which case the point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or contractor shall inform the client that the point-of-sale inspector, private compliance inspector, or contractor is so licensed.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74;
 Eff. October 1, 2011;
 Amended Eff. January 1, 2016;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.*

21 NCAC 39 .1005 ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM COMPONENTS

- (a) When inspecting an on-site wastewater system, the point-of-sale inspector shall inspect and describe the following in a report as set forth in Rule .1002 of this Chapter:
- (1) any part of the system located more than five feet from the primary structure that is part of the operations permit;
 - (2) septic tanks;
 - (3) pump tanks;
 - (4) distribution devices;
 - (5) dispersal fields;
 - (6) treatment units;
 - (7) control panels;
 - (8) any other components required as part of on-site wastewater system permit, including drainage; and
 - (9) any vegetation and grading with respect only to their effect on the condition of the system or system components.
- (b) The point-of-sale inspector shall:
- (1) uncover tank lids and distribution devices so as to gain access, unless blocked as described in Rule .1004(b)(5) of this Section. The distribution box may remain covered if the point-of-sale inspector has an alternate method of observing its condition;
 - (2) probe system components where deterioration is suspected;
 - (3) report the methods used to inspect the on-site wastewater system;
 - (4) open readily accessible and readily openable components as defined in Rule .1001 of this Chapter;
 - (5) report signs of abnormal or harmful water entry into or out of the system or components; and
 - (6) conduct the inspection using the rules promulgated under Article 11 of Chapter 130A, as set forth in Subchapter 18E of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code, in effect at the time of the initial construction or renovation of the system, whichever occurs later, and any subsequent installation or replacement of any system or component of the system.
- (c) The point-of-sale inspector shall not be required to:
- (1) conduct dosing volume calculations;
 - (2) evaluate soil conditions beyond saturation or ponding;
 - (3) evaluate for the presence or condition of buried fuel storage tanks;
 - (4) evaluate the system for proper sizing, design, or use of approved materials pursuant to Article 11 of Chapter 130A and the rules promulgated therefrom, as set forth in Subchapter 18E of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code; or
 - (5) perform a hydraulic load test on the system.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74;
Eff. October 1, 2011;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2013;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2019;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.*

21 NCAC 39 .1006 MINIMUM ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM POINT-OF-SALE INSPECTION

- (a) The point-of-sale inspector shall obtain, evaluate, describe, or determine the following during the inspection:
- (1) Advertised number of bedrooms as stated in the realtor Multiple Listing Service information or by a sworn statement of owner or owner's representative; and
 - (2) Designed system size (gallons per day or number of bedrooms) as stated in available local health department information, such as the current operation permit or the current repair permit.
- (b) The point-of-sale inspector shall obtain, evaluate, describe, or determine the following during the inspection:
- (1) Requirement for a certified subsurface water pollution control system operator pursuant to G.S. 90A-44, current certified operator's name, and most recent performance, operation, and maintenance reports (if applicable and available);
 - (2) Type of water supply, such as well, spring, public water, or community water;
 - (3) Location of septic tank and septic tank details:
 - (A) Distance from house or other structure;
 - (B) Distance from well, if applicable;
 - (C) Distance from water line, if applicable and readily visible;
 - (D) Distance from property line, if said property lines are known;
 - (E) Distance from finished grade to top of tank or access riser;
 - (F) Presence and type of access risers;
 - (G) Condition of tank lids;
 - (H) Condition of tank baffle wall;
 - (I) Water level in tank relative to tank outlet;
 - (J) Condition of outlet tee;
 - (K) Presence and condition of outlet filter, if applicable;
 - (L) Presence and extent of roots in the tank;
 - (M) Evidence of tank leakage;
 - (N) Evidence of inflow non-permitted connections, such as from downspouts or sump pumps;
 - (O) Connection present from house to tank;
 - (P) Connection present from tank to next component;
 - (Q) Date tank was last pumped, if known; and
 - (R) Percentage of solids (sludge and scum) in tank;
 - (4) Location of pump tank and pump tank details:
 - (A) Distance from house or other structure;
 - (B) Distance from well or spring, if applicable;
 - (C) Distance from water line, if applicable;
 - (D) Distance from property line, if said property lines are known;
 - (E) Distance from finished grade to top of tank or access riser;
 - (F) Distance from septic tank;
 - (G) Presence and type of access risers;
 - (H) Condition of tank lids;
 - (I) Location of control panel;
 - (J) Condition of control panel;
 - (K) Audible and visible alarms (as applicable) work;
 - (L) Pump turns on, and effluent is delivered to next component; and
 - (M) Lack of electricity at time of inspection prevented complete evaluation;
 - (5) Location of dispersal field and dispersal field details:
 - (A) Type of dispersal field;
 - (B) Distance from property line, if said property lines are known;

- (C) Distance from septic tank and also pump tank if a pump tank exists;
 - (D) Number of lines;
 - (E) Length of lines;
 - (F) Evidence of past or current surfacing at time of inspection;
 - (G) Evidence of traffic over the dispersal field;
 - (H) Vegetation, grading, and drainage with respect only to their effect on the condition of the system or system components; and
 - (I) Confirmation that system effluent is reaching the drainfield; and
- (6) Conditions that prevented or hindered the inspection or determination of Subparagraphs (b)(1) through (b)(5) of this Rule.

(c) If a client declines to allow a tank to be pumped, the inspection form shall contain the statement:

"Client requesting this inspection has been advised that for a complete inspection to be performed, the tank needs to be pumped. Client has declined to have the tank pumped at inspection and hereby acknowledges they have so declined." A space shall be provided for the client signature and date.

(d) The point-of-sale inspector shall not:

- (1) Insert any tool, probe, or testing device inside pump system control panels; or
- (2) Dismantle any electrical device or control other than to remove the covers of the main and auxiliary control panels.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-72; 90A-74;
Eff. October 1, 2011;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2016; April 1, 2014;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.*

SECTION .1100 - NC ON-SITE WASTEWATER EVALUATOR STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

21 NCAC 39 .1101 DEFINITIONS

As used in this Section:

- (1) "Accepted wastewater dispersal system" means as defined in G.S. 130A-343.
- (2) "Authorized inspector" or "Independent inspector" means an individual employed or contracted by an evaluator to observe and direct the construction of the wastewater system designed, planned, and specified by the evaluator.
- (3) "Notice of intent to construct" has the same definition as that set forth in Rule .0101(8) of this Chapter.
- (4) "Special inspection" means any continuous or intermittent inspection or visitation performed by the evaluator at the construction site on behalf of the owner.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 130A-336.2;
Eff. June 1, 2021;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.*

21 NCAC 39 .1102 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATORS

In addition to the duties set forth in G.S. 130A-336.2, evaluators shall:

- (1) Provide a "notice of intent to construct" to the owner of a proposed wastewater system, so the owner can submit it to the local health department that has jurisdiction over the location of the proposed wastewater system. A "notice of intent to construct" shall contain the following:
 - (a) whether the notice is intended for a new system, expansion of a system, repair of a system, relocation of a system, or relocation of repair area;
 - (b) the name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of the site owner or their legal representative;
 - (c) the name, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and certification number of the evaluator;
 - (d) the address of the site location, including the county;

- (e) the tax parcel identification number, subdivision lot, or block number of property of the site location;
 - (f) the following information about the wastewater system identified in the notice:
 - (i) the type;
 - (ii) the daily design flow;
 - (iii) whether the system is a saporlite system;
 - (iv) whether a subsurface operator is required; and
 - (v) whether the water supply type is a private well, public water supply, spring, or other water supply type;
 - (g) the following information about the facility at the site location:
 - (i) whether the facility is a residential site and, if so, the number of bedrooms and the maximum number of occupants;
 - (ii) whether the facility is a business site and, if so, the type of business and basis for flow;
 - (iii) whether the facility is for public assembly and, if so, the type of public assembly and the basis for flow;
 - (h) a copy of the plat or site plan;
 - (i) a copy of an evaluation of soil and site feature by a Licensed Soil Scientist;
 - (j) an attestation by the individuals identified in Sub-items 1(b) and 1(c) of this Rule that the information set forth in the notice is accurate and complete;
 - (k) an attestation by the individual identified in Sub-items 1(c) of this Rule that he or she has adhered to the laws and rules governing onsite wastewater systems in the State;
 - (l) the date the notice will expire;
 - (m) the dated signature of individuals identified in Sub-items 1(b) and 1(c) of this Rule; and
 - (n) the dated signature of the local health department representative.
- (2) Prepare a signed and sealed statement of special inspections as set forth in G.S. 130A-336.2;
 - (3) Notify the owner if the system constitutes a water pollution control system, as defined by 15A NCAC 08G .0102(31), for which the owner is required to enter into a contract with a water pollution control system operator certified pursuant to Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 90A of the General Statutes; and
 - (4) Maintain a signed and dated copy of the operation and management program that was provided to the system owner and all inspection reports for a period of seven years.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-336.2;
 Eff. June 1, 2021;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .1103 GENERAL EXCLUSIONS FOR EVALUATORS

Evaluators shall not:

- (1) Offer or perform any act or service contrary to Article 5 of G.S. 90A, G.S. 130A-336.2, or the rules of this Chapter; or
- (2) Offer or perform engineering, architectural, plumbing, electrical, pesticide or any other job function requiring an occupational license in the jurisdiction where the evaluation, inspection, installation, or repair is taking place, unless the evaluator holds a valid occupational license in that field, in which case the evaluator shall inform the client that the evaluator is so licensed.

History Note: Authority G.S. 130A-336.2;
 Eff. June 1, 2021;
 Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.

21 NCAC 39 .1104 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR EVALUATORS

Evaluators shall provide the owner with procedures for the final submittal of information to the local health department at the post-construction conference as set forth in G.S. 130A-336.2(k).

History Note: Authority G.S. 90A-74; 130A-336.2;
 Eff. June 1, 2021;

Readopted Eff. November 1, 2025.