



PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
101 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PO Box 802
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0802



LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Commissioner

BULLETIN 79-7

Issued: August 1979

Revised: September 2019

Subject: Septic Systems

Reference: N.J.A.C. 5:23-1.4, 2.15, 2.24 and 3.15

INSTALLATION:

Municipal or county boards of health have the responsibility for enforcing requirements for individual on-site subsurface sewage disposal (septic) systems.

Prior to issuing a construction permit for a building using a subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system, the construction official shall require, as a prior approval, proof of certification or approval of the subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system plan from the health department having jurisdiction. The approval shall indicate the number of bedrooms in the case of residential buildings or the design flow rate and the basis for the flow rate for nonresidential buildings.

The construction official should carefully compare the subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system approval with the building it serves to ensure that the subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system is the proper size. There have been instances where an approved subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system has been installed only to discover after the building was completed that the subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system was not designed for that particular building.

Prior to issuing a Certificate of Occupancy for a building using a subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system, the construction official shall require, as a prior approval, a Certificate of Compliance for the subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system, including a statement from the health department having jurisdiction that the system conforms to the construction plans. This ensures that what was actually constructed is also compatible with the building served.

ABANDONMENT:

When an existing building is being demolished and the existing subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system is abandoned, or an existing subsurface sewage disposal (septic) system is being abandoned and a connection is being made to the public sewer system, the plumbing subcode official shall ensure that the existing abandoned tank is disconnected from the building, pumped out, and filled with gravel, stones, or soil material. Subsurface sewage disposal (septic) systems, including those that are abandoned without and associated hookup to a public sewer system, are to be inspected by the health department having jurisdiction.