



Water Quality Division RULE CLARIFICATION

RC #: 004	Title: 18	Chapter: 9	Article: 3	Rule Citation: R18-9-A314(E)(4)
Date Issued: 2/20/01			Withdrawn or Superseded? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	
Topic of Rule Needing Clarification: Watertightness testing of large septic tanks assembled and sealed at the site with two or more parting lines below the operating liquid level.				
Text of Rule Needing Clarification: R18-9-A314(e)(4): “Test cast-in-place septic tanks and multi-part septic tanks assembled and sealed at the site of use for watertightness after installation by the water test or the vacuum test and repair, if necessary:”				
Question Needing Clarification: Can a modification of the water test used for determining watertightness [AAC R18-9-A314(E)(4)(a)] be used to test large septic tanks assembled in the field with two or more parting lines below the operating liquid level?				
Clarification of Rule: The following testing methodology meets the requirements of AAC R18-9-A314(E)(4)(a) and can be used to conduct a watertightness test on a large septic tank (typically 5000 gallons or more) assembled in the field with two or more parting lines below the operating liquid level: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill tank with clean water to 6 inches above all joints or parting lines located below the midpoint of tank depth and let stand for two hours. Any visible leak of flowing water is considered a failure. A damp or wet spot that is not flowing is not considered a failure. In the case of failure, repair so that the tank passes the test 2. Backfill tank to water level and compact. 3. Fill completely assembled tank with clean water to the invert of the outlet pipe and let stand in tank for 24 hours. Refill the tank to the invert, if necessary. 4. Record the initial water level and time. 5. After one hour, record the water level and time. 6. The tank passes the water test if the water level dropped less than 1/4 inch over the one hour period. Any visible leak is considered a failure. A damp or wet spot that is not flowing is not considered a failure. 7. If the tank fails the test, the presence or absence of visible leakage above the level of the compacted soil will indicate whether repairs need to be made to the upper (visible) or lower (previously tested but not visible due to backfill) part of the tank. Repair the tank so that it passes the test. <p>Depending on the vertical location of joints, the procedure indicated in Step 1 may be modified provided it will reliably detect any joint failure condition before placement of backfill. However, Steps 2 through 7 must be followed closely to ensure watertightness of the entire tank, including any failure of lower joints caused by later assembly of upper pieces of the tank.</p>				