

567—68.7(455B) Standards for septage and waste disposal. Septage from PSDSs and on-farm processing operations and waste from toilet units and holding tanks shall be disposed of in accordance with this rule.

68.7(1) Waste from toilet units and holding tanks shall be disposed of by discharge, with owner approval, to a POTW or other department-permitted wastewater disposal system. Land application of wastes from toilet units or holding tanks is prohibited.

68.7(2) Septage from septic tanks or other types of PSDSs that normally discharge effluent for further treatment shall be disposed of by one or more of the following methods:

a. Septage may be discharged, with system owner approval, to any of the following systems:

- (1) To a POTW or other department-permitted wastewater disposal system.
- (2) To permitted septage lagoons or septage drying beds.
- (3) To a permitted sanitary landfill in accordance with 567—Chapters 102 and 103 and the following requirements:

1. Septage shall be stabilized by adding and thoroughly mixing sufficient lime to produce a mixture with a pH of 12.

2. A minimum of 30 minutes of contact time shall be provided after mixing the lime with the septage prior to discharging to the landfill.

b. Septage from PSDSs and on-farm processing operations may be land applied when such applications are conducted in accordance with the following requirements:

- (1) Land application rate. The maximum application rate is 30,000 gallons of septage per acre of cropland per 365-day period. The nitrogen application rate shall be no more than is utilized by the crop. A crop capable of using the nitrogen applied must be grown and harvested from the site after application of the maximum annual allocation or, at a minimum, every third year.

- (2) Land application site restrictions.

1. Sites shall have soil pH maintained above 6.0 unless crops prefer soils with lower pH conditions. If the soil pH is below 6.0, agricultural lime may be used to increase the pH to an acceptable level. Soil pH shall be measured and reported in the annual SDMP.

2. If application on frozen or snow-covered ground is necessary, it shall be limited to land areas of less than 5 percent slope and application rates of less than 2,500 gallons per acre per day.

3. If septage is land applied to land in a floodplain with a ten-year magnitude, it shall be injected or applied to the surface and mechanically incorporated into the soil within 48 hours. Information on which land is in a floodplain with a ten-year magnitude is available from the department.

4. Septage shall be land applied in accordance with the separation distances in Table I in 567—paragraph 60.2(2)“c.” If septage is land applied within 200 feet upgradient of a stream, lake, sinkhole, or tile line surface intake, it shall be injected or applied to the surface and mechanically incorporated into the soil within 48 hours of application.

5. Septage shall not be applied to any of the following:

- To a lawn or a home garden;
- To ground that has a slope greater than 9 percent; or
- To land where there is a bedrock layer or seasonal high water table within three feet of the soil surface, as noted in the county USDA soil surveys.

- (3) Land application crop harvesting restrictions. After a septage application:

1. Food crops with harvested parts that touch the septage/soil mixture and are totally above ground shall not be harvested for 14 months.

2. Food crops with harvested parts below the land surface shall not be harvested for 38 months.

3. Animal feed, fiber, and those food crops with harvested parts that do not touch the soil surface shall not be harvested for 30 days.

4. Animals shall not be allowed to graze on the land for 30 days.

- (4) Land application vector attraction reduction (VAR). One of the following VAR requirements shall be met when septage is land applied:

1. Septage may be injected below the surface of the land. No significant amount of septage shall be present on the land surface within one hour of septage injection.

2. Septage may be incorporated into the soil within six hours after application to or placement on the land.

3. Septage may be stabilized by adding and thoroughly mixing sufficient alkaline material (such as hydrated or quick lime) to produce a mixture with a pH of 12. A minimum of 30 minutes of contact time shall be provided after mixing the alkaline material with the septage prior to land application. Each container of treated septage shall be monitored for compliance by testing two representative samples taken a minimum of 30 minutes apart to verify that the pH remains at 12 or greater for the minimum 30-minute time period.

4. Other stabilization methods may be acceptable if shown to be equivalent to one or more of the methods described in this subparagraph.

(5) Land application records. Persons who land apply septage shall document the following information and retain the records at their residence or business for five years:

1. The location, by either street address or latitude and longitude, of each septage application site;
2. The number of acres and precise application area in each septage application site;
3. The gallons of septage applied to each site for each application;
4. The rate, in gallons per acre, of septage application at each site;
5. The total gallons of septage applied at each site to date for the year;
6. The date and time of septage application at each site; and
7. A description of how the VAR requirements are met (injection, incorporation, or stabilization).

The following certification statement shall be provided with the records when the records are submitted to or requested by the department:

“I certify, under penalty of law, that the pathogen requirements and the vector attraction reduction requirements have been met. I am aware that there are significant penalties for false certification including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.”

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