

Administrative procedures for the installation of wastewater management systems outside building control areas

- Wastewater management system that treats up to 2,000 Litres per day
- Wastewater management system that treats more than 2,000 Litres per day
- Series of wastewater management systems that treat more than 2,000 Litres per day

45T Administrative procedures for the installation of wastewater management systems outside building control areas

Document title	45T Administrative procedures for the installation of wastewater management systems outside building control areas
Contact details	Department of Health – Public Health Directorate wastewater@ntg.gov.au or (08) 8922 7152
NTG webpage	Northern Territory Government website
Approved by	Chief Health Officer
Date approved	4 November 2020
TRM number	EFILE2020/41643-01

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	4 November 2020	Peter Rogers	

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

The Administrative procedures for wastewater management systems (WMS) installed outside building control areas complements the Code of Practice for Wastewater Management. The procedures explains the Department of Health (DoH) notification process for the installation of WMS outside building control areas and references the form for Notification of installation of wastewater management system outside a building control area.

A WMS is a physical collection of pipes, chambers(s) that receives, treats, and applies domestic wastewater to a land application area or a holding tank.

A WMS may comprise an on-site wastewater management system (OWMS) or a community wastewater management system (CWMS).

1.2. Scope

The procedures apply to:

- Wastewater management system that treats up to 2,000 Litres per day.
- Wastewater management system that treats more than 2,000 Litres per day.
- Series of wastewater management systems that treat more than 2,000 Litres per day.

1.3. Statutory framework

1.3.1. Public and Environmental Health Act and Regulations

The *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011* provides a head of power enabling administration of the Public and Environmental Health Regulations 2020. The operation and management of any WMS installed in the Northern Territory must not cause a public health nuisance in terms of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*.

The Public and Environmental Health Regulations 2014 – Part 6 Wastewater, detail the legislative requirements with regard to the manufacture, installation, operation and maintenance of WMS outside building control areas. The Code is prescribed code and must be read in conjunction with the Public and Environmental Health Regulations.

1.3.2. Building control areas

Certain areas within the Northern Territory are declared building control areas.

The design, installation, operation and maintenance of WMS inside building control areas must comply with the codes adopted under Building Regulation 4. The requirements in the *Building Act 1993* and Regulations apply inside declared building control areas.

To construct in a building control area, you must have a building permit and meet the standards for building in the National Construction Code and Building Regulations. Refer to the [Northern Territory Government website](#) for the online tool to check if a property is within the building control area.

A list of building control areas and maps of the areas is also available on the [Northern Territory Government website](#).

2. Relevant documentation

2.1. Code of Practice for Wastewater Management

The Code provides technical requirements and guidance for the selection, design, installation, and management of wastewater management systems (WMS) in the Northern Territory. The Code provide best practice for effective wastewater management based upon current Standards and Guidelines, while safeguarding public health and minimising possible adverse environmental effects.

2.2. Guidance Notes for Wastewater Management

The Guidance Notes for Wastewater Management provides further information on the technical requirements for the selection, design, installation, and management of wastewater management systems (WMS) in the Northern Territory.

3. WMS treatment capacity

A governing factor for the notification process that applies to a WMS installed outside building control areas is the loading or maximum amount of domestic wastewater to be treated each day.

A WMS that treats up to 2,000 Litres per day that is not owned or managed by the Northern Territory Government, does not require the lodgement of a DoH Notification of installation of wastewater management system outside a building control area.

NTG agencies responsible for the ownership or management of a WMS that treats up to 2,000 Litres per day, are required to lodge a design specification with DoH detailing site-and-soil evaluation, design, installation, commissioning and maintenance procedures for all WMS.

A WMS that treats more than 2,000 Litres per day or a series of WMS that treat more than 2,000 Litres per day, require the lodgement of a DoH Notification of installation of wastewater management system outside a building control area.

4. Notification of installation

4.1. Completion of form

The preparation of the notification for a WMS that treats more than 2,000 Litres per day or a series of WMS that treat more than 2,000 Litres per day must be carried out by a wastewater consultant [Hydraulic engineer or a Certifying plumber and drainer (design)] using the approved form. This form is available on the [Northern Territory Government website](#).

The form requires the completion of eight sections:

1. Notification detail
2. General and supporting information
3. Wastewater management system
4. Installation
5. System certification and performance
6. Site-and-soil evaluation
7. Wastewater disposal
8. Documentation to be provided to the WMS owner by the wastewater consultant upon completion of works.

DoH reserves the right to request the WMS owner to produce the above documentation for inspection or audit.

4.2. Lodgement of form

A notification fee is applicable and must be payable to the NTG Receiver of Territory Monies. Further information about the notification fee is available on the [Northern Territory Government website](#).

The notification must be signed by the applicant, i.e. WMS owner, scanned, and lodged online with the receipt of payment to wastewater@ntg.gov.au

5. Installation of WMS

The installation of any WMS outside of a building control area must be carried out by a person who has a licence under the *Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act 1983*.

6. Decision tree for installing WMS outside building control areas

45T Administrative procedures for the installation of wastewater management systems outside building control areas

