

## Septic Tank Septage Removal and Disposal Examination Study Guide

The purpose of this study guide is to assist septage removal and disposal contractors in preparing for the certification examination which is administered by the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

The examination is administered in two parts. The first part pertains to contractors who will dispose of the septage they pump in a properly permitted sewage treatment facility. Part II pertains to those contractors who land will apply the septage they pump. If a contractor only uses a permitted sewage treatment facility for disposal he/she must only complete part one of the exam. However if a contractor wishes to land apply the septage or utilize both disposal options, he/she must complete both parts of the exam.

### **Part I:**

Persons engaged in pumping and hauling septage must successfully complete the requirements of state certification **and** must receive permits from the county health departments in which they do business. The state certification must be renewed every two years and renewal will be based on completion of six (6) hours continuing education credit and the payment of a renewal fee. A septage removal permit will be issued by the county health department(s) in which you do business and will be subject to the terms of the individual county. Permit applications must be submitted at least ten (10) days prior to engaging in removal activities and shall include: the applicant's name and address and the business name and address, the manner by which septage is removed, transported and given final disposal, and evidence that the septage removed and transported will be accepted at an approved disposal site. Septage removal permits are valid for a period of twelve (12) months. When applying for a septage removal permit, the means by which the contractor will dispose of pumped waste will be of primary importance. The contractor must produce evidence that documents that wastes will be disposed of in an approved manner.

Septage disposal can be accomplished at a county, municipal or otherwise approved wastewater treatment plant, at a facility specifically approved for septage handling or it can be land applied. Land application of septage must be done in compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 503, established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Division.

Vehicles used to transport pumped septage must be inspected by the health department and must be water tight and properly maintained. The vehicle body and all pumps, hoses valves and fittings must be designed and maintained in a manner that will prevent leakage or spillage. Vehicles must be identified with letters and numerals on both sides of the vehicle that are at least two (2) inches in height, which identify the name and address of the person or business and the permit number.

Septic tanks shall be accessed for pumping by excavating a sufficient amount of soil to remove the lid section or access port cover in tact. Breaking a hole into the top or sides of the tank to access the contents is not acceptable. Pumping shall be accomplished by completely removing all liquid wastes, sludge and scum. The condition of the tank should be noted at the time of

pumping and any missing tee's should be replaced. Written documentation should then be furnished to the tank owner noting the condition of the septic tank and a copy of such notice should be sent to the health department. Once the pumping operation is completed excavated soil shall be replaced and the ground surface returned to it's original contour. Care should be taken at all times when there is open access to septic tank contents. Bacteria in septage can spread disease to people through the fecal oral route and can also contaminate water supplies if spillage near wells or springs occurs.

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