

On-Site Sewage Management Systems Risk Ratings Explained

Under the Council's Onsite Sewage Management Systems Strategy, all septic systems will be allocated a risk rating (low, medium, high) dependent on their potential risk to public health or the environment.

As part of the strategy, all septic systems will be regularly inspected by Council staff. The risk rating determines the frequency of inspections. The higher the risk, the higher the frequency of inspections.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, property owners are required to hold an Approval to Operate for their septic system. The risk rating determines the duration of the approval.

Risk ratings are a means to ensure that Council focuses its time and resources on those systems that pose the higher risk to public health or the environment.

Risk rating	Frequency of Inspections	Approval to Operate Expires
High	Every 2 years	2 years after issue
Medium	Every 5 years	5 years after issue
Low	Every 10 years	10 years after issue

Risk ratings can be re-assessed from time to time, such as when conditions change at the site change, the system operation is significantly improved or the system is upgraded.

Assessment Criteria

The main considerations in determining risk include:

- Location and size of the land;
- System design, condition and observed performance;
- The amount of wastewater generated;
- Soil type;
- Vegetation coverage;
- Slope of the land;
- Distance to watercourses, drains and property boundaries;
- Surface or subsurface discharge of effluent; and
- Risk of flooding.

These factors can have a direct impact on how effectively your system operates or the risk the system poses to nearby neighbours or sensitive areas.

All systems will be assessed using the same risk criteria.

More information

Visit Council's website at

www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively, contact Council on (02) 6033 8999 and ask to speak to the Environmental Health Officer (EHO).