

On-site Sewage Management Systems

What to Expect For Your Inspection

Having your on-site sewage management system inspected by Federation Council officers is legislative requirement to ensure your system meets the defined performance standards.

Frequency of Inspections

The frequency of inspections depends on the risk classification of your system.

Risk rating	Frequency of Inspections
High	Every 2 years
Medium	Every 5 years
Low	Every 10 years

High risk systems will be inspected more frequently than low risk systems. This is because they pose more risk to public health and the environment.

How Will I Know When My Inspection Will Be?

Prior to your system being inspected, you will be contacted by Federation Council. A letter will be sent at least two (2) weeks prior to the inspection. You will also have the opportunity to book in your inspection at a time that suits you. Once you receive the letter, contact Council to book in a specific day/time.

What Will Be Inspected?

The inspection of your system will include:

- Physical condition of your tank
- A check inside on the health and capacity of your tank
- A check on the condition of any fixtures such as the yard gully, vents, inspection openings, exposed pipes
- Detection of any strong odours from the tank or disposal area
- Check on the condition of the disposal area
- Signs of any wastewater or effluent pooling above ground
- Any signs of inappropriate wastewater and effluent disposal occurring
- Check of current service agreement (AWTS)
- Check appropriate signage is in place (AWTS)

- Assessment of risk classification

All Council officers will utilise the same inspection form when conducting an inspection and assessing your system against the same criteria.

Following your inspection, you will be advised in writing whether your system has been found to be satisfactorily or unsatisfactory.

If your system is found to be satisfactory, then an Approval to Operate will be issued.

If your system is found to be unsatisfactory, then you will be advised of what you need to do to bring it into compliance. Once a re-inspection has determined your system to be operating satisfactorily, an Approval to Operate will be issued.

Performance Standards

The *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* specifies that an on-site sewage management system must be operated in accordance with the following performance standards:

- The prevention of the spread of disease micro-organisms.
- The prevention of the spread of foul odours.
- The prevention of the contamination of water.
- The prevention of the degradation of soil and vegetation.
- The discouragement of insects and vermin.
- Ensuring the persons do not come in contact with untreated sewage or effluent (whether treated or not) in their ordinary activities on the premises concerned.
- The minimisation of any adverse impacts on the amenity of the premises and surrounding lands.

Systems will be evaluated against these standards when Council staff undertake an inspection.

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).