



## **Ontario Building Code Updates**

Ontario Regional Meeting Series  
Fall 2017

# OBC Updates

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- OBC Updates
  - 5 year code cycle for new editions
  - Interim amendments
- Fall 2016 – public consultation
- 17 code change proposals for Part 8
  - 7 Interim amendments to 2012 OBC
  - 10 proposed changes for 2019 OBC
- Public comments received (December 2016)
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established
- February 2017 – TAC reviewed Interim change proposals
- May 2017 – TAC reviewed proposals for 2019 OBC

# Interim Amendments to 2012 Code

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- Most interim amendment proposals related to codifying the use of leaching chambers

## NEW REQUIREMENT FOR PUMP CHAMBERS

- ALL pump or siphons to be equipped with audible and visible alarm.
- Comes into effect January 1, 2018



### 8.6.1.3. Pumps and Siphons

(1) Where the total length of *distribution pipe* required is 150 m or more, the *sewage system* shall have at least one pump or a siphon contained in a dosing tank that may be a separate compartment within the tank structure, for distribution of the *effluent*.

Note: On January 1, 2018, Sentence 8.6.1.3.(1) of Division B of the Regulation is amended by adding “or *leaching chamber*” after “*distribution pipe*”. (See: O. Reg. 139/17, s. 58 (1))

Note: On January 1, 2018, Article 8.6.1.3. of Division B of the Regulation is amended by adding the following Sentence: (See: O. Reg. 139/17, s. 58 (2))

(1.1) Where the total length of *leaching chamber* is 150 m or more, a *distribution pipe* shall be installed at the centreline of the *leaching chamber* and extend the total length of *leaching chamber* to allow for dosing of the *effluent*.

(2) Alternating siphons shall not be installed in a *sewage system*.

(3) Where 2 or more pumps are employed within a dosing tank, the pumps shall be designed such that the pumps alternate dosing, and dosing shall continue in the event that one pump fails.

(4) Where a pump or siphon is required, the pump or siphon shall be designed to discharge a dose of at least 75% of the internal volume of the *distribution pipe* within a time period not exceeding fifteen minutes.

Note: On January 1, 2018, Article 8.6.1.3. of Division B of the Regulation is amended by adding the following Sentence: (See: O. Reg. 139/17, s. 58 (2))

(5) Where a pump or siphon is required, the pump or siphon shall be equipped with a device that shall produce an audible and visual alarm signal that indicates a high water level in the pump or siphon chamber.

# Potential Changes for 2019 OBC

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- 10 potential changes were proposed and reviewed
- Proposed changes to Class 2 Systems
  - Would permit a Class 2 system to be a pit *or* a trench system
- Proposed change to 8.8.1.2. to limit expansion or replacement of dwellings serviced by holding tanks (no increase in design sewage flow permitted)
- Proposed changes to 8.7.4.2.(1) to eliminate the use of “leaching bed fill”

## PROPOSED CODE CHANGE

Revise existing Sentence 8.7.4.2.(1) as follows:

### 8.7.4.2. Construction Requirements

- (1) Except for a *shallow buried trench*, a *leaching bed* comprised of *absorption trenches* may be constructed in *leaching bed fill*, if unsaturated *soil* ~~or *leaching bed fill*~~ complying with Subclause 8.7.2.1.(1)(b)(ii) extends,
- (a) to a depth of at least 250 mm over the area covered by the *leaching bed fill*, and
  - (b) for at least 15 m beyond the outer *distribution pipes* in any direction in which the *effluent* entering the *soil* ~~or *leaching bed fill*~~ will move horizontally.

## RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

### Problem/General Background

The current Sentence, as written, does not prohibit the construction of a leaching bed in bald rock.

- This change, if passed would result in unintended consequences for systems in areas with  $T > 50$  min/cm
- Could achieve the objective by modifying other parts of the code.

# Potential Changes to 2019 OBC

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- Proposed changes to 8.9, if passed:
  - Keep maintenance records for any Class 4 system
  - Make available to CBO upon request
  - Maintenance provider responsible for sampling
- Proposed changes to 8.9.3.4.
  - Minister Mauro statement
  - Would have required septic tanks to be pumped out every 5 years regardless of sludge/scum levels
  - Would also include requirements to keep maintenance records and make available to CBO upon request.

Dear Heads of Council:

I am writing today to inform you that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will not be moving forward with the proposals requiring regular inspections, pumping out of septic tanks and keeping of the septic tanks and treatment units' maintenance records put forth in Phase One of the Building Code consultation.

The consultation process provided municipalities, industry, subject matter experts and members of the public with an opportunity to offer their input and views on the proposed changes. The Ministry welcomed the feedback and I was pleased with the frank responses with respect to septic systems.

I have always felt that there are sufficient protections in place to mitigate against septic system failures. Since 1997, there has been a requirement for owners of septic tanks and treatment units to clean out their systems when the working capacity is one-third full. This will continue to be in effect.

I value the input of our municipal partners. I've heard from many of you on this issue and I thank you for your input.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

Bill Mauro

Minister

# Next Steps Toward the 2019 OBC

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- Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff
  - Review public comments
  - Review TAC input
  - Decide what proposed changes to take to cabinet
- New regulation anticipated for a 2019 OBC
- Timing is unknown
- Possible Provincial election may affect timing

## General note:

- Code change proposals can be submitted at any time by anyone
- Do not wait until the consultation process begins – if you want to see a change, send in a proposal to MMA

# Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association



[www.oowa.org](http://www.oowa.org)