



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE of ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and SAFETY
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June 1, 2022

TO: Michelle Davis, Executive Director
State Board of Health

FROM: Todd Phillips, Director
Office of Environmental Health and Safety

SUBJECT: Emergency rule request, WAC 246-272A-0110, Proprietary treatment products -
Certification and registration.

The Department of Health (department) requests the State Board of Health adopt an emergency rule to allow on-site sewage systems proprietary treatment products to be operated and maintained with the best components available during an ongoing supply chain shortage.

WAC 246-272A-0110, requires manufacturers of proprietary treatment products used in on-site sewage systems to test their products with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and register their products with the department based on the NSF test results before the product is allowed to be permitted or installed in Washington. This allows the department to ensure that products used in on-site sewage systems can provide the appropriate level of treatment needed to protect public health and the environment such as such as drinking water sources and shellfish sites. Proprietary treatment products are required to be installed and operated as they were tested and registered to ensure they continue to perform as needed. Supply chain disruptions have occasionally made this requirement difficult for manufacturers and owners to comply with, particularly in recent years.

Some manufacturers have incorporated disinfecting ultraviolet (UV) light systems into their products to achieve higher treatment performance required for sensitive sites. These disinfecting UV light systems require routine maintenance that requires replacement supplies. Salcor Inc., the manufacturer of a disinfecting UV light system incorporated into several proprietary treatment products sold and currently in use in Washington, has recently ceased operation. This has created a sudden shortage of Salcor supplies that are needed for operation and maintenance for on-site sewage systems currently in operation. Exact numbers are unavailable, but we know there are several thousand on-site sewage systems using Salcor products in Washington.

Without these supplies, the on-site sewage systems that use Salcor products do not operate as registered and may not completely treat sewage. This may impact sensitive sites near to these on-site sewage systems. It is also currently preventing home sales when maintenance of these devices is noted on home inspections for property transfers because replacement parts are unavailable. New construction is likewise impacted as many active or pending permits include on-site sewage systems using Salcor products. There are other manufacturers of disinfecting UV light systems that can be substituted into the proprietary treatment products that use Salcor products.

The request for an emergency rule is intended to allow manufacturers to make a written request to substitute components of a registered product's construction in cases of a demonstrated supply chain shortage or similar manufacturing disruptions that may impact installations, operation, or maintenance. The request must include information that demonstrates the substituted component will not negatively impact performance or diminish the effect of the treatment, operation, and maintenance of the original registered product. This is a short-term solution that will provide appropriate public health and environmental protections while limiting negative impacts to home sales and construction. A long-term solution will be investigated and developed for incorporation into the permanent rulemaking while this emergency rule is in effect.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Phillips, R.S.", written in a cursive style.

Todd Phillips, R.S.
Director, Office of Environmental Health & Safety