

FULTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND CODE OF RESOLUTIONS

CHAPTER 34 - HEALTH AND SANITATION

ARTICLE XI. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Approved By Board of Commissioners – June 2, 1982
Amended – September 7, 1988

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Sec. 34-506. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Absorption field means a configuration of distribution lines placed in trenches to absorb sewage effluent from a septic tank.

Absorption pit means a pit, dry well or hole in which aggregate is placed and may be utilized in lieu of or in conjunction with a conventional absorption field under certain conditions.

Absorption trench means a trench in which aggregate and a distribution line is laid.

Absorption trench bottom area means the total bottom area of all absorption trenches expressed in square feet.

Aggregate means washed gravel or crushed stone, ranging in size from one-half (1/2) inch to 2 1/2 inches.

Alternative onsite sewage management system means any onsite sewage management system which has proven reliability and performance in field use, but which differs in design or operation from approved conventional septic tank and absorption-field systems.

Approval or approved means accepted or acceptable by the health department in accordance with applicable specifications stated herein or with additional criteria accepted by the department.

Bedroom means any room that could normally be expected to be used for sleeping and has an enclosed closet in or adjacent to the room with access to that room from a main corridor or hall.

Building sewer means that part of the piping of a drainage system outside of the building which receives and conveys liquid wastes to a public sewer, private sewer, onsite sewage management system or other subsurface disposal meeting the approval of the health department. The term shall also include all nonperforated piping (solid pipe) and sewage conduits utilized in an onsite sewage management system.

Central distribution box means a watertight structure which receives sewage from a septic tank, dosing tank or pump chamber and equally distributes it to two or more distribution boxes in a central onsite sewage management system.

Central onsite sewage management system means an onsite sewage management system serving more than one building designed or used for human occupancy or congregation.

Certified contractor means any person who:

- (1) Engages in the construction, repair or alteration of an onsite sewage management system;
- (2) Has passed an examination administered by the health department demonstrating his familiarity with this article;
- (3) Consistently complies with this article; and
- (4) Possesses a valid certification.

Commercial development means a development other than "residential development" and shall include any development used for retail, wholesale, commercial/office, industrial, churches, etc.

DHR means the Georgia Department of Human Resources, specifically those divisions associated with environmental health and safety.

Distribution box means a watertight structure which receives sewage from a septic tank, dosing tank or pump chamber and equally distributes it to two or more absorption trenches.

Distribution line means perforated drainpipe laid in an absorption trench to convey and distribute septic tank effluent.

Sec. 34-506. Definitions. (cont.)

DNR means the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, specifically those divisions associated with environmental health and safety.

Dosing tank means a watertight structure with a siphon designed to discharge sewage effluent intermittently to a distribution box or alternately to distribution boxes including central distribution boxes.

Dry sewer means a sanitary sewer constructed to applicable governmental standards, accepted by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction, and not connected to an active public or community sewerage system.

Easement means any portion of a parcel or lot legally dedicated for the exclusive use by a utility or governmental or private entity, thereby precluding use of that area for the construction of or reserve area for an onsite sewage management system.

Exemption plat means any subdivision of land administratively approved by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction and is exempted from prescribed subdivision platting procedures. The term shall include but not be limited to exception plat, administrative subdivision, etc., with the total number of lots not exceeding five.

Experimental or innovative onsite sewage management system means any onsite sewage management system installed for testing and observation, but does not preclude use of a conventional onsite sewage management as required by the health department.

Floodplain means any area susceptible to being flooded or as designated by the 100-year floodplain area, including type A zone flood areas as determined or established in flood studies. This term shall also include 100-year water levels in detention and retention ponds.

Grade means the ratio of vertical drop of pipe invert, trench bottom or ground surface to the horizontal distance traversed.

Grease trap means a device in which the grease content of sewage from food service establishments, nonresidential kitchens, etc., only, is intercepted and congealed and from which the grease may be removed for proper disposal.

Health department means the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness.

Lot means any parcel of land intended as a unit for transfer of ownership, for development, or both.

Mobile home park means a parcel of land developed for placement of two or more mobile homes for residential occupancy.

Nonsewered toilet system means any portable structure used for the collection, temporary storage and chemical treatment of human body wastes that is not connected to an onsite sewage management system or public or community sewerage system.

Onsite sewage management system means a system that includes a septic tank, absorption field and all other elements intended to be used for management and disposal of sewage onsite.

Percolation coefficient means the ratio of absorption trench bottom area to percolation; it is expressed as the allowable rate of sewage application in gallons per square foot per day.

Percolation rate means the rate, expressed in minutes per inch, at which water seeps into saturated soil in a test hole under constant-rate conditions.

Percolation test means the approved method established for determining the percolation rate as stated in this article.

Physical development means construction including, but not limited to, any site preparation, grading, excavation for slabs or footings, erection of a structure, road construction, well construction or installation of an onsite sewage management system.

Sec. 34-506. Definitions. (cont.)

Point of availability means the existing or predesigned location at which a public or community sewerage system terminates as determined by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.

Premises means any place or building where people live, work or congregate.

Private water supply means any water supply consisting of a single well and appurtenance serving two or less residences on one lot.

Privy means a waterless sanitary fixture meeting health department requirements for receipt and disposal of human body wastes.

Public or community sewerage system means any sewage collection, treatment and disposal system, including sewers, treatment plants, pumping stations, force mains and all other elements owned, operated or managed by a public entity (including agents thereof) and serving more than one residential premises.

Reserve area means an area designated for the replacement of an onsite sewage management system in accordance with the current regulation should the initial system fail.

Residence means any building or structure intended for housing of a single family.

Residential development means any subdivision of land subject to prescribed platting procedures of the appropriate governmental jurisdiction, and shall include but not be limited to developments with the total number of lots exceeding five.

Septic tank means an approved watertight structure installed underground to receive sewage from a building sewer, effecting separation and organic decomposition of sewage solids and discharging effluent to an absorption field or another element of an onsite sewage management system.

Sewage means human excreta, all water-carried wastes and/or liquid household waste including greywater from residences or similar wastes (byproducts) from commercial and industrial establishments.

Sewage lift pump means any device, including all appurtenances, designed to temporarily store and discharge sewage effluent to a higher elevation to effect disposal to a public or community sewerage system or an onsite sewage management system. It shall meet all requirements as set forth by the health department and shall include, but not be limited to, an alarm system, emergency bypass plumbing to an absorption pit, electrical supply, etc.

Sewer availability means that a public or community sewerage system is in an accessible location (existing or predesigned) to a residential development, commercial development or any lot in accordance with the criteria as set forth in this article.

Sewer moratorium means a situation has been mandated or voluntary restrictions placed on total or restricted access to or use of a public or community sewerage system essentially ceasing or severely restricting future building activity during a set time period.

Special event means any activity attracting more than 50 persons that is sponsored, organized, promoted, managed or financed by any person, group, partnership, organization, corporation, business or governmental entity where individuals congregate to participate in or observe an activity in outdoor or portable enclosed or semi-enclosed structures for more than two consecutive hours.

Subdivision means the division of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, building sites, mobile home sites or other land or property regardless of the existing or proposed use for the purpose, whether immediate or future, for sale or legacy and includes resubdivision and where appropriate to the context, relates to the process of subdividing or to the land or area subdivided.

Toilet means a sanitary fixture meeting health department and plumbing code requirements for receipt and conveyance of human body wastes to a public or community sewerage system or an onsite sewage management system.

Usable area shall be the total area in a lot that is determined by the health department to be

Sec. 34-506. Definitions. (cont.)

suitable for installation of an onsite sewage management system including the reserve area. The area shall not include any bodies of water, floodplains, easements, etc., except those portions that would be precluded for use by this article via minimum separation distance requirements.

Well means an excavation or opening into the ground by which groundwater is sought or obtained to serve as an onsite water supply.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-1)

Cross reference(s)--Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 34-507. Disposal of sewage.

- (a) *Disposal.* No one may dispose of any human body waste except in a toilet. All sinks, lavatories, basins, shower baths, laundry tubs and similar plumbing fixtures or appliances shall be connected to a public or community sewerage system or to an approved onsite sewage management system. Clothes washing machines may be connected to an adequately sized absorption pit if approved by the health department. Backwash lines and main drains serving whirlpools and similar recreational/bathing facilities may be connected to an approved absorption pit.
- (b) *Sewage discharge.* No sewage shall be discharged onto the ground surface, into any watercourse, impoundment, storm sewer or public thoroughfare.
- (c) *Vacate premises.* In the event that a failure of an onsite sewage management system occurs and it is determined by the health department that the system cannot be repaired, then either connection to a public or community sewerage system shall be made or the premises shall be vacated until connection to the public or community sewerage system can be completed.
- (d) *Signs.* The health department may put signs or require signs to be posted on a premises prohibiting occupancy where a health hazard exists, i.e., failing onsite sewage management system. Signs shall be removed only by the health department. No one may occupy the premises until the health hazard is eliminated as approved by the health department.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-2)

Sec. 34-508. Toilets.

Every premises shall be provided with at least one toilet, privy or nonsewered toilet system in accordance with the provisions of this article.

- (1) *Flush toilet.* Every toilet shall be connected to a public or community sewerage system or to an approved onsite sewage management system.
- (2) *Privy.* A privy may be considered for approval by the health department where no public or community sewerage system is available or where onsite soil conditions are not suitable for installation of an onsite sewage management system. Privies shall be maintained in a sanitary manner. See section 34-524 for specific requirements.
- (3) *Nonsewered toilet system.* Nonsewered toilet systems may be considered for approval by the health department where sanitary facilities are needed on a temporary basis for the general public at a mass gathering or event and on an interim basis (one year maximum) for a limited defined group of people, i.e., employees and security personnel at a worksite. See section 34-523 for specific requirements. A nonsewered toilet system shall be maintained in a sanitary manner.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-3)

Sec. 34-509. Connection to sewer.

The owner, lessee or agent thereof of any building, residence or other facility designed or used for human occupancy or congregation shall provide a system to dispose of the sewage generated within the building, residence or other facility. Connection shall be made to a public or community sewerage system when such system is available as indicated below:

- (1) *Individual residential lot.* A public or community sewerage system shall be considered available if it is within 200 feet of the nearest property line, such distance being measured along the appropriate natural drainage course (gravity flow). Also, if the distance between the residence and the public or community sewerage system is within 500 feet as measured along the appropriate natural drainage course (gravity flow), mandatory connection is required.
- (2) *Exemption plat.* A public or community sewerage system shall be considered available if it is within 200 feet of the nearest property line of the development, such distance being measured along the appropriate natural drainage course (gravity flow).
- (3) *Commercial development.* A public or community sewerage system shall be considered available if it is within a specified distance of the nearest property line as indicated in table A, such distance being measured along the appropriate natural drainage course (gravity flow) and based on the maximum anticipated daily sewage flow. See tables D and E for flow determination. Mandatory connection to a public or community sewerage system shall be required for commercial developments regardless of distance if the health department denies approval for construction of an onsite sewage management system, including reserve area, for any reason.

Exception. In the event that a change in use occurs in an existing structure, which may or may not require a zoning change, the new owner may be allowed to utilize the existing onsite sewage management system provided the following conditions are met:

1. *Sewage flow.* Change in use of the premises will not increase the anticipated maximum daily sewage flow that the existing onsite sewage management system is designed to handle as determined by the health department.
 2. *Proper operation.* The existing system is properly operating, there are no signs of failure at the time of inspection by the health department and the system is in compliance with the regulations.
 3. *Site changes.* The owner or agent for the owner states in writing that no site changes will be made that would alter or affect the performance of the system, i.e., paving, parking or construction on top of the system.
 4. *Mandatory connection.* The owner or agent for the owner agrees in writing to immediately connect to the public or community sewerage system should the onsite system fail.
 5. *Easement dedication.* The owner or agent for the owner agrees in writing to provide all necessary easements at no cost for future public sewer at time of approval as required by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.
 6. *Payment of fees.* The owner or agent for the owner pays all necessary fees, including assessments and tap on, at the time of approval as required by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.
- (4) *Residential development.* A public or community sewerage system shall be considered available if it is within a specified distance of the nearest property line at the time of application or will be available within a set time period, as determined by appropriate governmental jurisdiction. The distance indicated in table B shall be measured along the appropriate natural drainage course (gravity flow) and based on the number of lots indicated on the preliminary plat. Also included in accordance with table B are conditions

Sec. 34-509. Connection to sewer. (cont.)

of approval for the various types of residential developments, stipulating the construction, design and easements determined to be necessary by the health department and as required by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.

a. *Type "A" residential development.*

1. *Sewer availability.* A public or community sewerage system is available at time of application in accordance with table B as determined by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.
2. *Conditions of approval.*
 - i. *Individual lot area less than or equal to two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to extend the sewer outfall from the point of availability throughout the development, construct a collector system to serve the development and to connect the collector system to the public or community sewerage system.
 - ii. *Individual lot area greater than two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to extend the sewer outfall from the point of availability throughout the development and provide a collector system design including easements to the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.

b. *Type "B" residential development.*

1. *Sewer availability.* A public or community sewerage system will be available within three years from the time of application in accordance with table B as determined by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.
2. *Conditions of approval.*
 - i. *Individual lot area less than or equal to two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to extend the sewer outfall from the point of availability through the development and construct a collector system (dry sewers) to serve the development.
 - ii. *Individual lot area greater than two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to provide the design for the sewer outfall from the point of availability through the development and provide a collector system design including easements to the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.

c. *Type "C" residential development.*

1. *Sewer availability.* A public or community sewerage system will be available within three to ten years from time of application in accordance with table B as determined by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.
2. *Conditions of approval.*
 - i. *Individual lot area less than or equal to two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to provide the design for the sewer outfall from the point of availability through the development and provide a collector system design, including easements to the appropriate governmental jurisdiction. If the lot

Sec. 34-509. Connection to sewer. (cont.)

areas are less than one acre then the owner/developer shall construct a collector system (dry sewers) to serve the development.

- ii. *Individual lot area greater than two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to provide the design for the sewer outfall from the point of availability through the development and provide easements for the outfall in the development only.
 - d. *Type "D" residential development.*
 - 1. *Sewer availability.* A public or community sewerage system will not be available within ten years from time of application in accordance with table B as determined by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.
 - 2. *Conditions of approval.*
 - i. *Individual lot area less than or equal to two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to provide the design for the sewer outfall from the point of availability through the development and provide easements for the outfall in the development only.
 - ii. *Individual lot area greater than two acres.* The owner/developer shall be required to provide easements for the sewer outfall in the development only.
- (5) *Abandonment of onsite sewage management system.* When the use of an onsite sewage management system is discontinued following connection to a public or community sewerage system or the condemnation or demolition of a building or property, the system shall be abandoned and any further use shall be prohibited. However, the appropriate governmental jurisdiction may approve the use of the septic tank where the tank is to become an integral part of a sanitary sewer system. The following actions shall be taken, in the order listed, to abandon an onsite sewage management system:
- a. The tank shall be pumped out;
 - b. The bottom of the tank shall be opened or ruptured so as to prevent the tank from retaining water; and
 - c. The tank shall be filled with clean soil or other suitable material.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-4)

Sec. 34-510. Permit.

- (a) *Land disturbance.* No person shall begin physical improvement on a lot including clearing, grading or excavation for footings, nor shall any building permit be issued prior to receiving a permit to construct an onsite sewage management system from the health department. No person shall excavate nor utilize any hole or pit for the purpose of disposing of and burying any type of debris, including site cleared material (logs, stumps, etc.), building materials, etc., on any lot or portion thereof which is proposed for development with an onsite sewage management system or where there is an existing system. Only areas preapproved by the health department and the appropriate governmental jurisdiction for excavation and use of as a trash or debris pit as indicated on the permit to construct an onsite system shall be allowed as an exception to this article. All swimming pools where individual onsite sewage management systems are existing or proposed shall be approved by the health department prior to construction.

Sec. 34-510. Permit (cont.)

- (b) *Permit.* No person shall construct, repair or alter an onsite sewage management system without obtaining a construction permit for such purpose from the health department. Written approval may be required for all minor repairs prior to work being performed. No permit or written approval for the construction, repair or alteration of an onsite sewage management system shall be granted until the health department has inspected and approved the site, proposed location and design of the system. A fee shall be charged for this service. No onsite sewage management system which has been constructed, altered, or repaired may be covered totally until it has been inspected and approved by the health department. The health department shall require random spot check inspections/excavations in areas covered for construction purposes to ensure compliance with this article. The contractor must have a copy of the valid health department permit and a responsible representative onsite during the construction inspection. Failure to comply with this article will necessitate rescheduling the inspection and charging an additional fee. Continued disregard of these procedures may jeopardize contractor certification.
- (c) *Contractor certificate.* No person may install or repair an onsite sewage management system, other than for his own use on property owned by him and that person is deemed qualified by the health department, unless he possesses a valid contractor's certificate from the health department. A separate certificate may be required for contractors who plan to install systems for commercial developments. The contractor's certificate may be granted by the health department to any person whose qualifications are confirmed by examination and supported by appropriate references from other health departments.
- (d) *Certificate suspension or revocation.* A contractor's certificate may be suspended or revoked by the health department upon violation of any of the requirements of this article. Suspension and revocation of a contractor's certificate shall be binding on the individual and the company by which he is employed or owns. Suspension of a contractor's certificate shall be for a minimum of one year. Revocation of a contractor's certificate shall be for a minimum of five years. Two suspensions within a five-year period shall be grounds for revocation. A contractor with a suspended or revoked certificate will not be allowed to construct, repair or modify any onsite sewage management system in Fulton County.
- (e) *Abandoned installation.* No contractor shall abandon an incomplete installation nor delay the completion of an installation.
- (f) *No permit guarantee.* An owner or agent for the owner may request an onsite review by the health department of a lot without obtaining a permit to construct the system. A fee shall be charged for this consultation service. An affirmative opinion of a health department employee or a site visit does not infer nor guarantee the issuance of a permit to construct an onsite sewage management system. Submission of site plans, construction plans, etc., by any individual, owner, consultant, firm, etc., shall not imply nor be construed to imply or infer any approval or preapproval of a site proposed to be developed with an onsite sewage management system.
- (g) *No system guarantee.* Issuance of a construction permit for an onsite sewage management system, and subsequent approval of same by representatives of the health department, shall not be construed as a guarantee that such systems will function satisfactorily for a given period of time. Furthermore, said representatives do not, by any action taken in effecting compliance with this article, assume any liability for damages which are caused, or which may be caused, by malfunction of such system.
- (h) *Ownership of property and system.* No onsite sewage management system permit shall be issued for construction unless fee simple title of all property is under same ownership and exclusively serves the facilities for that development for the owner. Leases and/or easements of contiguous property under another ownership for installation of an onsite sewage management system or reserve area is prohibited.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-5)

Sec. 34-511. Area requirements.

- (a) *Individual lot.* The minimum lot size required for considering approval of installation of an onsite sewage management system serving a single residence shall be 43,560 square feet (one acre) of usable area and shall accommodate the initial system and the reserve area. The reserve area shall remain undisturbed, available for future repair, shall not conflict with applicable zoning requirements and shall not be used to accommodate any other construction (aboveground or underground) precluding its use or availability in the event of initial-system failure. Development on individual lots with less than 43,560 square feet of usable area shall be restricted to those served by public or community sewerage systems.
- (b) *Exemption plat.* The minimum lot size required for considering approval of installation of an onsite sewage management system under the exemption plat process shall be 43,560 square feet (one acre) of usable area and shall accommodate the initial system and the reserve area. The reserve area shall remain undisturbed, available for future repair, shall not conflict with applicable zoning requirements and shall not be used to accommodate any other construction (aboveground or underground) precluding its use or availability in the event of initial-system failure. Development on lots on an exemption plat with less than 43,560 square feet of usable area shall be restricted to those served by public or community sewerage systems.
- (c) *Commercial development.* The minimum area onsite required for installation of an onsite sewage management system in a commercial development shall be that required for the initial system plus reserve area. The reserve area shall remain undisturbed, shall be available for future repair, shall not conflict with applicable zoning requirements and shall not be used to accommodate any other construction (aboveground or underground) precluding its use or availability in the event of initial system failure.
- (d) *Residential development.* The minimum lot size required for considering approval of an onsite management system in a residential development shall be 43,560 square feet (one acre) of usable area, except that if a public or community sewerage system will be located at the development within ten years after initial construction, as documented by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction, the minimum lot size may be 30,000 square feet of usable area. Adverse conditions onsite shall negate reduced lot size considerations and/or result in denial of a permit. In residential developments where onsite sewage management systems are proposed, no lot may be less than minimum size. Each lot approved for installation of an onsite sewage management system shall include the area required for the initial system and the reserve area. The reserve area shall remain undisturbed, available for future repair, shall not conflict with applicable zoning requirements and shall not be used to accommodate any other construction (aboveground or underground) precluding its use or availability.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-6)

Sec. 34-512. Plan approval/data requirements.

- (a) *Individual lot.*
 - (1) *Plan approval.* No person may begin construction nor any physical improvement of an individual lot, nor shall a building permit be issued in any form until all requirements set forth by the health department have been met. When a grading/site plan is required to evaluate a lot along with a plan of its proposed development, then written plan approval by the health department is a prerequisite to issuance of a permit to construct an onsite sewage management system.
 - (2) *Data requirements.* The following general data shall be submitted by the owner or agent for the owner for review and approval by the health department prior to its issuance of a permit to construct an onsite sewage management system. Specific data requirements are as listed in the current health department "data requirements--individual lot" checklist.

Sec. 34-512. Plan approval/data requirements. (cont.)

- a. *General site plan.* The general site plan shall be based on a boundary survey certified by a land surveyor currently registered in the State of Georgia, including all specific data as listed in the checklist.
 - b. *Soil percolation data.* A minimum of three percolation tests shall be performed and results appropriately documented as specified in the checklist.
 - c. *Rock and water table borings.* A minimum of one rock and water table boring shall be performed and results appropriately documented as specified in the checklist.
 - d. *Fees.* Review and permit fees shall be paid by check or money order in accordance with the current fee schedule shown on the health department receipt form and as specified in the checklist.
 - e. *Additional data.* Any other additional supportive data or information required by the health department not specified in the checklist shall be submitted including an individual lot grading/site plan.
- (b) *Exemption plat.*
- (1) *Plat approval.* No person may sell, offer for sale, lease, begin construction or otherwise begin the physical improvement of an exemption plat development, nor shall a building permit be issued in any form until all requirements set forth by the health department have been met.
 - (2) *Plat processing.* Prior to the approval of any exemption plat by the appropriate jurisdiction, the health department shall review and approve the plat regarding water supply and sewage disposal. When onsite systems are proposed, lot restrictions shall be noted and recorded as part of the exemption plat. No lots shall be shown on the exemption plat as "hold" lots where onsite systems are proposed. Unsuitable lots for development with onsite systems shall be combined with lots approved by the health department.
 - a. *Single lot split.* Written approval by the health department of a single lot split (i.e., two lots) to be developed with onsite systems shall be either by issuance of permits to construct onsite systems or signature approval on the plat.
 - (3) *Data requirements.* The following general data shall be submitted by the owner or agent for the owner for review by the health department prior to its approval and subsequent release of the exemption plat. Specific data requirements are as listed in the current health department "data" requirements--exemption plat" checklist.
 - a. *General site plan.* The general site plan shall be based on a boundary survey certified by a land surveyor currently registered in the State of Georgia, including all specific data as listed in the appropriate checklist including location of existing structures, onsite systems and reserve areas.
 - b. *Soil percolation data.* The minimum required number of percolation tests shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - c. *Rock and water table borings.* The minimum required number of rock and water table borings shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - d. *Engineer's report.* A report prepared and submitted by a state-registered civil or soils engineer or certified soils scientist detailing his findings and opinions for each lot may be required as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - e. *Individual lot site plan.*

Sec. 34-512. Plan approval/data requirements. (cont.)

1. *Footprint site plan.* Footprint plans are required for all lots shown on the general site plan, including all data and layout information as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 2. *Individual lot grading/site plan.* Required site plans for an individual lot shall be submitted on separate drawings, including all data and layout information as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - f. *Fees.* Review fees shall be paid by check or money order in accordance with the current fee schedule shown on the health department receipt form and as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - g. *Additional data.* Any other additional supportive data or information required by the health department not specified in the appropriate checklist shall be submitted.
- (c) *Commercial development.*
- (1) *Plan approval.* No person may begin construction or any physical improvement of a commercial development, nor shall a building permit be issued in any form, until all requirements set forth by the health department have been met. Written plan approval of the construction plans by the health department is a prerequisite to issuance of a permit to construct an onsite sewage management system.
 - (2) *Data requirements.* The following general data shall be submitted by the owner or agent for the owner for review and approval by the health department prior to its approval of the construction plans and issuance of a permit to construct an onsite sewage management system. Specific data requirements are as listed in the current health department "data requirements--commercial onsite sewage management system" or "data requirements--small commercial onsite sewage management system" checklists as appropriate.
 - a. *Site plan.* The site plan shall be based on a boundary survey certified by a land surveyor currently registered in the State of Georgia, including all specific data as listed in the appropriate checklist.
 - b. *Soil percolation data.* The minimum required number of percolation tests shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - c. *Rock and water table borings.* The minimum required number of rock and water table borings shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - d. *Fees.* Review and permit fees shall be paid by check or money order in accordance with the current fee schedule shown on the health department receipt form and as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - e. *Additional data.* Any other additional supportive data or information required by the health department not specified in the appropriate checklist shall be submitted.
- (d) *Residential development.*
- (1) *Plan approval.* No person may sell, offer for sale, lease, begin construction or otherwise begin the physical development of a residential development, nor shall a building permit be issued until all requirements set forth by the health department have been met. A fee shall be charged for each plan review.

Sec. 34-512. Plan approval/data requirements. (cont.)

- (2) *Preliminary plat processing.* Prior to the submission of any residential development to the appropriate governmental jurisdiction for review and approval, the developer shall comply with all the applicable requirements of this article.
- (3) *Final plat processing.* Prior to the approval of any residential development by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction, the health department shall review and approve the plat regarding water supply and sewage disposal. When onsite systems are proposed, lot restrictions shall be noted and recorded as part of the final plat. No lots shall be shown on the final plat as "hold" lots where onsite systems are proposed. Unsuitable lots for development with onsite systems shall be recombined with lots approved on the preliminary plat by the health department.
- (4) *Data requirements.* The following general data shall be submitted by the owner or agent for the owner for review by the health department prior to its approval and subsequent release of the preliminary plat for a residential development. Specific data requirements are as listed in the current health department "data requirements--residential development."
 - a. *General site plan.* The general site plan shall be based on a boundary survey certified by a land surveyor currently registered in the State of Georgia, including all specific data as listed in the appropriate checklist.
 - b. *Soil percolation data.* The minimum required number of percolation tests shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - c. *Rock and water table borings.* The minimum required number of rock and water table borings shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - d. *Engineer's report.* A report shall be prepared and submitted by a state-registered civil or soils engineer or certified soils scientist detailing his findings and opinions for each lot as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - e. *Individual lot site plan.*
 1. *Footprint site plan.* Footprint site plans are required for all lots shown on the general site plan, including all data and layout information as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 2. *Individual lot grading/site plan.* Required site plans for an individual lot shall be submitted on separate drawings, including all data and layout information as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - f. *Fees.* Review fees shall be paid by check or money order in accordance with the current fee schedule shown on the health department receipt form and as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - g. *Additional data.* Any other additional supportive data or information required by the health department not specified in the appropriate checklist shall be submitted.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-7)

Sec. 34-513. Field data procedures.

Percolation tests shall be performed by state-registered civil engineers and land surveyors or certified soils scientists. A property owner may be allowed to conduct percolation tests on his own individual lot only if deemed qualified by the health department.

Sec. 34-513. Field data procedures. (cont.)

(1) *Percolation tests.*

- a. *Location.* Percolation test holes shall be spaced at least 50 feet apart (spacing may be reduced if approved) and located in the area proposed for the absorption field. The holes shall not be located in floodplains, easements, nor in any other area restricted by this article. Test holes shall not be located in or near streams, draws, banks, stump holes or any other location where percolation test rates would not be representative of typical soil and terrain conditions. Tests holes shall be flagged, staked and numbered in accordance with the soil data record and site plan. All test hole locations including those with passing and failing results shall be shown, including depth of test holes.
- b. *Preparation of test hole.* Percolation test holes shall be dug or bored with vertical sides, shall be no less than four inches in width and shall extend to the proposed depth of the absorption field. On slopes less than 20 percent, minimum depth of test holes shall be 30 inches to 48 inches, and on slopes greater than 20 percent, the depth of test holes shall be 84 inches. On projects where grading in the field area is proposed, the test holes shall be 30 inches to 48 inches below the proposed finished elevation. Sides of test holes shall be scratched with a pointed instrument to remove smeared soil surfaces and to provide a more natural soil interface into which water may percolate. Loose material shall be removed and no less than two inches of clean gravel shall be added.
- c. *Saturation and swelling of soil.* Percolation test holes shall be filled with water (and kept completely filled in 30-inch to 48-inch test holes) and kept to an elevation at least three feet above the bottom of the deeper test holes until the soil is saturated and clays have had an opportunity to swell. No tests shall be performed until the soil has been soaked at least four consecutive hours. Overnight soaking is prohibited.
- d. *Percolation rate measurement.* After soaking, water depths in the percolation test holes shall be adjusted until approximately six inches of water remains over the gravel. From a fixed reference point, established at or near ground surface, repeated measurements shall be made at equal time intervals of the vertical distance in inches from the reference point to the water surface. Water shall be added to restore a six-inch depth if the water falls to less than two inches above the gravel surface. Measurements shall be continued until a constant percolation rate is evidenced, i.e., the water surface drops the same vertical distance each time interval. The time in minutes required for the water column to drop one inch at this constant rate shall be recorded as the percolation rate. When percolation rates vary significantly or exceed 90 minutes/inch fall within the proposed absorption field, additional tests may be required and data on all tests performed (passing and failing) must be submitted for review.

(2) *Borings.*

- a. *Location.* Borings shall be located in areas proposed for the absorption field and shall not be located in floodplains, easements nor in any other area restricted by this article. Borings shall be flagged and numbered accordingly with the soil data record and site plan. All test hole locations, including those with passing and failing results, shall be shown including depth of borings.
- b. *Water table borings.* Borings to determine groundwater elevation in low areas may be required by the health department. Borings shall be made to a minimum depth of seven feet. On projects where grading in the field area is proposed, the borings shall be at least seven feet below the proposed finished elevation. Water table elevations shall not be recorded until 48 hours have elapsed for stabilization

Sec. 34-513. Field data procedures. (cont.)

of groundwater. Location, identification number and depth to water table shall be recorded on the site plan and soil data record. Other records of water table elevation, including seasonal peaks, may be submitted or required.

- c. *Rock borings.* Where surface outcroppings or subsurface rock or hardpan exist or are suspected, a sufficient number of borings to a minimum depth of seven feet shall be required by the health department to determine if such conditions may interfere with installation, performance or repair of the proposed onsite sewage management system.
- d. *Additional depth.* Water table and rock borings shall be required at a minimum depth of 11 feet in areas with slopes greater than 20 percent.
- e. *Negative evidence.* Evidence of the presence of water or rock in the borings shall negate approval for present and future use of the area tested for installation of an onsite sewage management system.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-8)

Sec. 34-514. Sewage flow.

The maximum anticipated daily sewage flow shall be determined from tables D and E, sewage flow schedule and maximum occupancy. Design flows for establishments not listed shall be determined by the health department after review of data and design criteria submitted by the owner or his agent and shall be a minimum of three times the peak monthly water usage, if based on existing development water bills and if proposed and existing developments are the same size and use. Calculations shall be made on the basis of peak flow and ultimate usage of the facility. The maximum anticipated daily sewage flow of any of the above facilities other than food service establishments, taverns, bars and cocktail lounges shall be determined by multiplying the maximum occupancy (M.O.) (see table E) times the daily flow in gallons per individual or unit where applicable. For food establishments the minimum number of anticipated customers shall be calculated on a basis of two times the maximum occupancy times the number of meal services, i.e., minimum number of anticipated customers = 2 X M.O. X number of meal services. For taverns, bars and cocktail lounges the minimum number of anticipated customers shall be calculated on a basis of two times the maximum occupancy for the establishment, i.e., minimum number of anticipated customers = 2 X M.O. If the estimated number of customers, employees, etc., as indicated in the owner's letter of intent exceeds the calculated values, the higher number shall be used in determining the size of the onsite sewage management system.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-9)

Sec. 34-515. Appurtenances.

(a) *Septic tank.*

- (1) *Minimum design and construction.* Any person seeking approval of reinforced concrete septic tanks to be used in onsite sewage management systems other than those of standard size and configuration meeting DHR specifications in the current Manual For On-Site Sewage Management Systems shall submit detailed plans and specifications, test and performance data and quality control procedures as may be required by the health department for its complete understanding and evaluation of the product. No other septic tanks shall be installed unless specific written approval is granted by the health department. Manufacturers, facilities and suppliers stocks shall be subject to periodic inspection by the health department.
- (2) *Location.* No septic tank shall be installed within the minimum separation distances indicated in table C from the referenced items, existing or proposed, nor in areas with fill material, in the floodplain or in areas subject to local flooding and ponding of surface

Sec. 34-515. Appurtenances. (cont.)

runoff. Septic tanks shall be installed so as to provide ready access for necessary maintenance. The health department, after site inspection, may stipulate greater separation than cited herein, due to adverse onsite conditions such as location of a well onsite or nearby; site configuration or structure placement; subsurface soil characteristics and/or groundwater interference. Minimum separation distances from items not listed in table C shall be determined by the health department.

- (3) *Capacity.* Minimum capacity for any septic tank shall be 750 gallons. The minimum tank size required for single-family dwellings with one or two bedrooms shall be 750 gallons, dwellings with three bedrooms shall be 1,000 gallons and dwellings with four or five bedrooms shall be 1,500 gallons. Total tank capacity will be increased by 250-gallon increments for each additional bedroom over five. Use of garbage grinders is not recommended in conjunction with onsite sewage management systems. If a grinder is to be utilized then an additional 50 percent tank storage capacity shall be required, i.e., 500 gallons more for a 1,000-gallon system. The maximum tank capacity for a nonresidential onsite sewage management system shall be 10,000 gallons.
 - (4) *Tanks in series.* The health department may approve the serial installation of uncomparted septic tanks if the tanks are of equal capacity. Connecting lines shall be nonperforated. An interior connection of the tanks may be allowed if the conduit is solid pipe and all joints between pipe and tanks are smooth, nonleaking and impervious.
 - (5) *Foundation and backfill.* Septic tanks shall be constructed or installed level on a foundation of solid unexcavated ground (no fill) that will prevent settling. Backfill shall be free of voids, stumps, broken masonry or other such materials. A minimum earth cover of 12 inches over the tank is required with a maximum cover of 24 inches to maintain serviceability unless approved by the health department.
- (b) *Dosing tank.* Dosing tanks shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the current DHR Manual For On-Site Sewage Management Systems. A dosing tank shall be provided where more than 1,500 square feet of absorption trench is required, unless waived by the health department for residential systems only, and shall discharge effluent to a distribution box or pump chamber. The operating liquid capacity of a dosing tank shall be no less than 60 nor more than 75 percent of the volume of the absorption lines to be dosed. Dosing sequence shall be regulated and activated by automatic siphon or by a sewage effluent pump installed in a lift station. When more than 3,000 square feet of absorption trench is required, alternating siphons or pumps shall be required. Design of the siphon size and discharge piping shall be in accordance with the current DHR Manual For On-Site Sewage Management Systems.
- (c) *Distribution box.*
- (a) *Minimum design and construction.* Distribution boxes shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the current DHR Manual For On-Site Sewage Management Systems.
 - (2) *Foundation and backfill.* The foundation and backfill for distribution boxes shall be in accordance with subsection (a)(5) of this section.
 - (3) *Capacity.* The box shall be of sufficient capacity to temporarily store the effluent from the dosing tank or effluent pump during redistribution to the absorption trenches. The maximum liquid level shall be no less than four inches below the top of the box (bottom of the lid).
- (d) *Grease trap.*
- (1) *Required.* Grease traps are required for all food service establishments and nonresidential kitchens where it is determined by the health department that introduction of grease into the onsite system might adversely affect it. Grease traps are neither necessary nor recommended for onsite sewage management systems serving residences.

Sec. 34-515. Appurtenances. (cont.)

- (2) *Design.* Grease trap plans and specifications shall be submitted to the health department for approval. No human waste shall pass through the grease trap. No grease trap shall have less than 750 gallons capacity and its effluent shall be directed to the septic tank. Grease traps shall be sized (minimum capacity) by multiplying three gallons times the maximum occupancy (see table E) times two for food service establishments. Grease trap size requirements for nonresidential kitchens shall be based on the maximum occupancy of the structure times three gallons.
 - (3) *Construction.* Grease traps shall be located, installed and constructed so that the temperature of the sewage will be reduced to permit congealing or separation of grease and easy access for cleaning is provided. Construction shall be in accordance with the specifications and details in the current DHR Manual For On-Site Sewage Management Systems.
- (e) *Sewage effluent pump.* In the event that the sewage generated from a building or residence cannot be plumbed to an absorption field by gravity, then an onsite sewage management system may be modified by installing a sewage effluent pump (no sump pumps allowed) with the necessary appurtenances as determined by the health department. Included but not limited to the following appurtenances are: a separate pump chamber from the septic tank, pump controls, level control switches, warning buzzer and/or light for power failure or pump malfunction, approved ventilation, manhole cover, check valve on discharge line, emergency bypass plumbing with absorption pit (20-ton minimum), piping, fittings and distribution box for pump discharge prior to entering absorption field. All wiring shall be installed underground meeting electrical codes. All material specifications, warranties and construction plans must be submitted by the owner or agent for the owner and reviewed and approved by the health department, prior to issuance of a permit to construct the onsite sewage management system. Design and construction shall be in accordance with the specifications and details in the current DHR Manual For On-Site Sewage Management Systems.
- (f) *Absorption pit.* Absorption pits may not be utilized in any new construction with the following exceptions:
- (1) *Washer pit.* An adequately-sized absorption pit (20-ton minimum) may be constructed and placed to receive the greywater from a clothes washing machine only if permitted by the health department.
 - (2) *Basement bathroom.* In the event that a basement bathroom is proposed and there is not sufficient area for a conventional field and the bathroom cannot be plumbed by gravity into the main onsite sewage management system or a public or community sewerage system, an adequately sized absorption pit (20-ton minimum) may be constructed together with a septic tank if permitted by the health department.
 - (3) *Emergency overflow.* In the event that a sewage effluent pump is utilized in a residential or commercial onsite sewage management system, then an adequately sized absorption pit (20-ton minimum) shall be constructed and used for emergency overflow in case the pump malfunctions or electrical power is temporarily interrupted.
 - (4) *Size calculations.* Absorption pits shall be sized in accordance with the following criteria:
 - a. *Residential.* The volume of aggregate to be used in the absorption pit shall be equivalent to the corresponding amount used in a conventional absorption field trench per bedroom based on percolation rates as indicated in section 34-517, size of pit for a 450 square feet/bedroom rate (one bedroom only): 450 square feet X 1 foot (depth) X 100 pounds/c.f. 2,000 pounds/ton = 22.5 tons.

Sec. 34-515. Appurtenances. (cont.)

- b. *Commercial.* The volume of the absorption pit shall be calculated by multiplying the maximum anticipated daily sewage flow in gallons per day (see table D) times three. The volume in gallons shall be converted to cubic feet and tonnage of aggregate accordingly.
- (5) *Design and construction.* The minimum depth of an absorption pit shall be six feet with a minimum cover of 12 inches. A continuous layer of geotextile drainage fabric (building paper and straw not allowed) approved by the health department, shall be placed over the aggregate along with a minimum 12-inch wide strip of aluminum foil along the entire perimeter of the pit before backfilling. The pipe entering the pit shall terminate downwards a minimum of 12 inches in the center of the pit for all pits except "in line" repair pits. The required (usable) volume of the pit shall be calculated based on the depth below the invert of the pipe times the area.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-10)

Sec. 34-516. Sewage conduits.

- (a) *Size.* Sewage conduits connecting component parts of an onsite sewage management system shall be sized adequately to accommodate the anticipated maximum daily sewage flows as determined by the health department.
- (b) *Materials.* All pipe and fittings used in sewage conduits and/or absorption fields shall meet nationally recognized standards for their designated use, i.e., standards published by the American Society for Testing and Materials or the National Sanitation Foundation, and shall have been approved by the health department for use in onsite sewage management systems. Sewage conduits under driveways or similar areas of load or impact shall be of material capable of withstanding maximum anticipated loads, i.e., schedule 40 PVC, etc.
- (c) *Construction.* Sewage conduits, other than distribution lines, shall be installed with sealed, watertight, root-resistant joints, laid on a firm foundation not subject to settling, in straight alignment and installed at a grade not less than one-eighth inch per foot (gravity lines). All conduits shall be installed at a depth to allow a minimum of 18 inches of cover. All exposed conduits (aboveground) and conduits installed in fill areas shall be ductile iron, properly supported and insulated, and sized to accommodate maximum anticipated sewage flow.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-11)

Sec. 34-517. Absorption field.

- (a) *Area computation.* The determination of the absorption trench bottom area to be required shall be based upon both the maximum anticipated daily sewage flow from the proposed facility and upon the characteristics of the soil in which the absorption field is to be located. Soil characteristics shall include percolation rates determined in the manner set forth under section 34-513, together with types of soil encountered, drainage conditions and other related data that may be required by the health department.

- (1) *Residential lots.* Trench bottom areas for residential onsite sewage management systems shall be not less than those shown below:

Average Percolation Test Rate (minutes per inch)	Absorption Trench Bottom Area Per Bedroom, Existing or Proposed (square feet)
1--45	300
46--65	375
66--90	450

Sec. 34-517. Absorption field. (cont.)

No additional trench area shall be required when an additional bathroom or wetbar is proposed if it is connected to the main onsite sewage management system. If a basement bathroom is proposed below the elevation of the main system, then a minimum 750-gallon septic tank and 300 square feet of absorption trench is required, actual trench area shall be based on percolation test rates. Split systems may require additional absorption trench area compared to a single system.

- (2) *Commercial development.* Total absorption trench bottom area for nonresidential onsite sewage management systems shall not be less than the area obtained by multiplying the maximum anticipated daily sewage flow (gallons) by the percolation coefficient, i.e., one-fifth of the square root of the average percolation rate, e.g., $1/5$ times the square root of the percolation rate \times gallons = total absorption trench bottom area. The maximum anticipated daily sewage flow shall be determined in accordance with the sewage flow schedule, table D of this article. The maximum total absorption trench bottom area for a nonresidential/commercial onsite sewage management system shall be 9,000 square feet. The minimum size nonresidential/commercial onsite sewage management system shall include at least a 750-gallon septic tank and 300 square feet of absorption trench bottom area.
- (b) *Location.* No absorption field shall be installed within the minimum separation distance indicated in table C from the referenced items, existing or proposed, nor in areas with unsuitable fill material. However, if fill section has been in existence for a minimum of ten years (appropriate documentation as required by the health department) and normal compaction has taken place, then field lines may be allowed in the fill section based on satisfactory soils reports. A reduction in the minimum normal compaction timeframe (ten years) may be considered based on satisfactory lab tests and a favorable opinion from a soil scientist or soils engineer. If wells and onsite sewage management systems are in place on contiguous lots, 100 feet of separation shall be maintained between any well and any absorption field. Absorption fields shall not be installed in the floodplain nor where groundwater or adverse geological formations may interfere with the absorption of treated sewage or result in the contamination of groundwater. Absorption fields shall not be installed in areas subject to excessive surface water, ponding or runoff, including but not limited to stormwater and discharge from building gutters. Absorption fields shall not be installed where ground slopes exceed 20 percent, but sites with slopes exceeding 20 percent may be considered if investigations demonstrate that the slope limitation can be overcome by design or site modification (see details A and F). The health department, after site inspection, may require greater separation distances due to adverse conditions such as topography, subsurface soil characteristics and/or groundwater sources. No part of the absorption field shall ever be covered by buildings, pavement or be used for vehicular traffic or parking.
- (c) *Minimum design and construction.* Absorption trenches shall be on grade throughout, constructed in minimum lengths (runs) of 50 linear feet, shall be no less than 30 nor more than 46 inches in depth, shall be at least 36 inches in width and shall enable placement of at least 12 inches of earth cover over distribution lines. If unfavorable soil conditions (high clay content, hard pan, etc.) are encountered at normal installation depths, trenches may be installed at greater depths if approved appropriate, site modifications are performed and acceptable percolation test rates can be shown to exist at these depths, and the soil meets all requirements for installation of absorption fields with respect to rock, groundwater elevations, etc. Absorption trenches shall be spaced not less than seven feet apart between trench walls nor closer than five feet to any septic tank. Perforated pipe shall be laid in the center of the trench with perforations oriented toward the bottom of the trench and appropriate fittings used where needed. Pipe crossings under roadways or paved areas shall not be considered in determining the total absorption trench bottom area. If an illegal trash pit is encountered during construction, then an absorption trench bypass must be installed in accordance with detail B meeting the approval of the health department. Aggregate shall be

Sec. 34-517. Absorption field. (cont.)

placed under the absorption line to a minimum depth of six inches and shall extend the full width of the trench, and two inches of aggregate shall cover the absorption line (total depth of aggregate shall be a minimum of 12 inches). A continuous layer of approved geotextile drainage fabric (building paper and straw not allowed) shall be placed over the aggregate before backfilling to prevent siltation in the aggregate. A minimum 12-inch wide, continuous layer of aluminum foil shall be placed along the centerline of the absorption trench prior to backfilling to facilitate future location of the field line. Excavation for absorption trenches in wet clay soils and smearing of trench walls and bottoms shall be avoided so that permeability will not be reduced. Approvals may be withheld where such damage has occurred. Absorption fields shall not be installed in areas where percolation test rates exceed 90 minutes per inch.

- (1) *Vertical piping.* Additional vertical piping may be installed (and required as necessary) in the absorption trenches, connected to the distribution lines and specifically located at the highest elevated portion of each trench to accommodate periodic addition of oxidizing agents to facilitate maintenance of the system. Vertical pipes shall not extend more than six inches above the ground surface (finished grade) and shall be capped to minimize rainfall infiltration and vandalism.
- (d) *Field layout methods.* Absorption fields shall be designed and installed in accordance with one of the following methods:
- (1) *Distribution box method.* The distribution box method may be used on level or moderately sloping topography. This method is required for all systems using dosing tanks and sewage effluent pumps. A level reinforced concrete foundation (minimum four-inch thick slab) shall be provided for approved precast distribution boxes to ensure against tilting. It shall extend a minimum of six inches beyond the box in both dimensions. Extreme care must be exercised in backfilling around and over the distribution box. There shall be no less than 12 inches nor more than 24 inches of cover over the box. Influent lines from the septic tank, dosing tank or pump chamber shall terminate inside the distribution box via an elbow turned downward to form a submerged inlet at normal water level. Equal absorption trench areas, not exceeding 600 square feet, shall be connected to distribution box outlets by independent sewers. A combination of standard and modified absorption trenches may be installed if prior approval is given by the health department. While such absorption trenches may be installed at the same or different elevations, all lines (two or more lines required) leading from the distribution box to absorption trenches shall be schedule 40 PVC; installed level, on a solid bed of aggregate (12 inches minimum width) and at the same elevation for the initial two feet; shall be watertight and, for the remainder of the sealed length, minimum grade shall be one-eighth inch per foot. All perforated distribution lines shall be laid on a uniform grade with no more than four inches of fall per 100 linear feet of absorption trench.
 - (2) *Level field method.* The level field method may be used only on flat terrain. When this method is used, all absorption field trenches shall be installed level and at the same elevation, shall not exceed 100 linear feet in length and shall be connected at the ends to form a continuous system. A combination of standard and modified absorption trenches may be installed if prior approval is given by the health department. A standard tee fitting or a distribution box shall be used to distribute treated sewage, shall be not less than five feet from the septic tank, and shall have an invert at least four inches below the septic tank outlet invert. A standard tee fitting shall be used to effect a juncture of the ends of any three distribution lines.
 - (3) *Serial distribution method.* The serial distribution method may be used in areas with sloping topography. Absorption trenches shall be constructed level (maximum four inches of fall per 100 linear feet) and shall follow contours. A combination of standard and modified absorption trenches may be installed if prior approval is given by the health department. All effluent from the septic tank must traverse the uppermost distribution line before entering overflow sewers (solid line) and the system must be constructed so

Sec. 34-517. Absorption field. (cont.)

that each trench is filled with effluent to the full depth of aggregate before it enters succeeding trenches via overflow connections. Overflow sewer connections shall be required only when there is an overall change in trench bottom elevations. The invert of the first overflow sewer must be at least four inches below the invert of the septic tank outlet. At the point where an overflow sewer connects absorption trenches, the invert of the overflow sewer shall be no deeper than the top of the aggregate in the preceding absorption trench, so that an undisturbed block of earth will remain in place for the full depth of the aggregate. Overflow sewers connecting absorption trenches shall be laid on undisturbed earth. Care must be exercised in backfilling over the overflow sewer to prevent damage and there shall be a minimum of 12 inches of earth cover over the sewers.

- (4) *Modified serial/level method.* The modified serial/level method may be used in areas with gentle sloping topography only if specifically approved by the health department. All construction specifications and requirements are the same as those for the serial distribution and level field methods except:
- a. Lengths of "feeder line" trenches may vary throughout the system.
 - b. Ends of "feeder line" trenches should be connected to ends of other "feeder line" trenches whenever possible and as directed by the health department.
 - c. "Feeder line" trenches branching off the main distribution line trench shall be connected with standard tee fittings.
 - d. Portions of the modified system may be installed via the level field method and connected to other portions of the modified system installed via the serial distribution method. See detail C for more information.
- (e) *Modified absorption trench--double side.* A variation of the standard absorption trench may be utilized only with health department approval on lots where the available area to install the absorption field is limited, thus necessitating placement of two standard distribution lines in one absorption trench. The trench width shall be six feet with the distribution lines spaced on a two-foot center with two feet of trench width on either side of the lines. All other construction specifications shall be in accordance with this article. This modified absorption trench will be specifically used for repairs and in initial installations where space is limited to maintain the reserve area.
- (f) *Modified absorption trench--deep percolation.* Where the available area to install the absorption trench has unsatisfactory percolation test results at the normal installation depths (30 inches to 48 inches), a variation of the standard absorption trench may be utilized if approved by the health department. The modified trench depth shall be equal to the depth at which satisfactory percolation test results were obtained. The invert (bottom) of the distribution line shall be no deeper than 42 inches. Placement of aggregate shall be below the invert of the distribution line to the bottom of the trench and shall extend to a height of two inches above the top of the distribution line (minimum 12 inches depth of aggregate). All other construction specifications are in accordance with this article, specifically this section and detail E.
- (g) *Modified absorption trench--steep slope.* Where the available area to install the absorption trench has a ground surface slope exceeding 20 percent and it is impractical or undesirable for the owner to modify the site (benching or terracing) to accommodate a conventional absorption trench a variation of the standard absorption trench may be utilized if approved by the health department. The modified trench shall be extended to a depth of 66 inches with the invert (bottom) of the distribution line installed at a depth of 60 inches. Aggregate shall be placed from six inches below the distribution line to two inches above the top of the distribution line, total depth of aggregate being 12 inches. Vent stacks (constructed with solid four inches PVC, schedule 40) shall be connected to the distribution line with tees and shall extend no less than six inches above finished grade. Vent stacks shall be installed at 50-foot intervals along the entire length of the system.

Sec. 34-517. Absorption field. (cont.)

They may be hooded with ventilated caps (optional) to minimize rainfall infiltration and vandalism. Initial installation of the stacks shall be accomplished to leave at least three to four feet above the ground surface (staked and flagged) for ease of identification and minimize destruction and possible removal or lowering of the vents during final grading and landscaping. Tops of stacks shall be lowered only after all construction is completed. All other construction specifications must be in accordance with this article, specifically this section and detail F.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-12)

Sec. 34-518. Interim conditional repairs.

In the event that a failure of an onsite sewage management system occurs that cannot be repaired by installing a conventional system and a public or community sewerage system is not available, then an adequately-sized absorption pit may be permitted by the health department. Its use will be allowed only until a public or community sewerage system can be constructed for immediate connection.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-13)

Sec. 34-519. Alternative system.

- (a) *Consideration of alternative systems.* In areas of acceptable or marginal suitability where appropriate, and after thorough assessment of alternatives, the health department may consider alternative onsite sewage management systems and/or site modifications for conventional or alternative systems. A combination of public sewers and onsite sewage management systems will also be considered.
- (b) *Priorities.* Priority consideration will be given those proposals for alternative sewage disposal systems designed to resolve existing onsite sewage management problems.
- (c) *Review protocol and procedures.* Those desiring to install an alternative onsite sewage management system shall submit the following information to the health department:
 - (1) *Plans and specifications.* Plans and specifications, including type and location of site modifications, along with any engineering, laboratory or field data required.
 - (2) *Backup system/reserve area.* Provisions for a backup system, including reserve area for installation of a conventional onsite sewage management system.
 - (3) *Additional information.* Any additional information required for complete understanding and decision formulation by the health department.
 - (4) *Maintenance/warranty.* If the proposal of the system is approved, those making application will be informed by the health department of responsibilities for maintenance, warranty and of any monitoring procedures deemed appropriate by the health department.
 - (5) *Water use reduction.* Reduction of water usage by installation of water-conserving fixtures and devices may be required.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-14)

Sec. 34-520. Experimental and innovative system.

The health department may consider proposals for the use of experimental and innovative onsite sewage management systems. Consideration will be based on the same priorities, protocol and data requirements as those listed for alternative systems. Proven alternative systems, if applicable, will take precedence over experimental and innovative systems. (Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-15)

Sec. 34-521. Sewage removal and disposal.

- (a) *Sewage removal permit.* No person may engage in the removal or disposal of the contents of septic tanks, other onsite sewage management systems or experimental/innovative systems without having first applied for and obtained from the health department an annual sewage removal permit for such activities. An annual fee will be charged for the permit.
- (b) *Disposal method.* Disposal of septage from onsite sewage management systems shall be discharged to a public or community sewerage system (sewage treatment plant). Disposal shall require written permission of the appropriate governmental jurisdiction and the health department.
- (c) *Vehicle identification.* The name and permit number of the person or firm engaging in the removal of septage from onsite sewage management systems shall be permanently lettered on both sides of each vehicle used for sewage removal purposes. Letters and numerals shall not be less than two inches in height.
- (d) *Vehicle maintenance.* Every vehicle used for removal of septage from onsite sewage management systems shall be equipped with a watertight tank or body and properly maintained. Liquid wastes shall not be transported in open-bodied vehicles. All pumps, hose lines, valves and fittings shall be maintained so as to prevent leakage or failure in normal service.
- (e) *Records maintenance.* Permit holders shall maintain an annual record of septage removed and disposed of, including name and address of onsite system owner location of system, volume of sewage removed, date of removal, date of disposal and name and location of disposal site. Copies of these records shall be made available upon request by the health department. (Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-16)

Sec. 34-522. Sewer moratorium/limited sewage capacity.

In the event of a DNR- or self-imposed sewer moratorium, or if there is limited sewage treatment capacity in a selected basin as determined by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction, for a specified time in an area served by a public or community sewerage system, then the owner or agent for the owner may apply for a permit to construct a temporary onsite sewage management system to serve the proposed development based on the following general criteria and conditions. Specific data requirements are as listed in the current health department "Data Requirements--Commercial Development (Moratorium/Limited Sewage Capacity)," "Data Requirements--Small Commercial Development (Moratorium/Limited Sewage Capacity)," "Data Requirements--Residential Development (Moratorium/Limited Sewage Capacity)," "Data Requirements--Exemption Plat (Moratorium/Limited Sewage Capacity)," or "Data Requirements--Individual Lot (Moratorium/Limited Sewage Capacity)," as appropriate.

- (1) *Data requirements.*
 - a. *Site plan.* The site plan shall be based on a boundary survey certified by a land surveyor currently registered in the State of Georgia, including all specific data as listed in the appropriate checklist.
 - b. *Soil percolation data.* The minimum required number of percolation tests shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - c. *Rock and water table borings.* The minimum required number of rock and water table borings shall be performed and results documented as specified in the appropriate checklist.
 - d. *Engineer's report.* A report prepared and submitted by a civil or soils engineer currently registered in Georgia or certified soils scientist detailing his findings and opinions as specified in the appropriate checklist.

Sec. 34-522. Sewer moratorium/limited sewage capacity. (cont.)

- e. *Fees.* Review and permit fees shall be paid by check or money order in accordance with the fee schedule shown on the health department receipt form and as specified in the appropriate checklist. In addition to health department fees, all advance sewer service fees, including tap-ons and assessments, shall be prepaid to the appropriate governmental jurisdiction. Proof of payment is required.
 - f. *Additional data.* Any other additional supportive data or information required by the health department not specified in the appropriate checklist shall be submitted.
- (2) *Dry sewer.* All "dry sewer" construction, both onsite and offsite, shall be inspected and approved by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction or designee in such manner that ultimate connection to a public or community sewerage system will be facilitated.
 - (3) *Reserve area waiver and reduced flow consideration--commercial projects.* The health department may waive the requirement for a reserve area to accommodate future repair of an onsite sewage management system and/or allow a reduction in the size of the proposed system in conjunction with use of low flow toilets, depending on the specified length of time the moratorium or limited sewer capacity will be in effect.
 - (4) *Use of leased and/or easement property.* The health department may waive the requirement that a property owner construct an onsite sewage management system to serve his proposed development only on his property. Easements and leases on contiguous land may be considered for construction of an onsite sewage management system if suitable sufficient area onsite is not available and the easement or leased property is to be used exclusively for the onsite system.
 - (5) *Fulton County agreement for conditional sewer capacity.* Completion and execution of the current specified agreement by the owner, health department and appropriate governmental jurisdiction, including notarization and recording in the Fulton County Superior Court clerk's office (recording--microfilming), shall be required prior to issuance of a health department permit to construct a temporary onsite sewage management system and issuance of appropriate land disturbance and building permit.
 - (6) *Waiver of health department permit to construct an onsite sewage management system.* If an owner or agent for the owner desires to proceed with construction of a project without completing and executing the "Fulton County Agreement For Conditional Sewer Capacity" and obtaining a health department permit to construct a temporary onsite sewage management system, then he must complete and execute the current specified waiver document prior to obtaining appropriate land disturbance and building permits. Upon execution of the waiver document, the owner waives all rights to apply for a permit to construct a temporary onsite sewage management system regardless of future availability of a public or community sewerage system.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-17)

Sec. 34-523. Nonsewered toilet system.

- (a) *Requirement.* Employees at all worksites and the general public attending and participating in special events that are inadequately served by sewered toilet facilities should have easy access to nonsewered toilet systems that are maintained in a clean, sanitary and functional condition for the protection of human health, safety and welfare. Where nonsewered toilet systems supplement or serve in lieu of sewered toilet facilities, the construction and maintenance of the sewered facilities shall meet the standards of this article applying to sewered toilet facilities.
- (1) *Nonsewered toilet system.* All employers and sponsors of special events shall provide for acceptable nonsewered toilet systems when sewered toilets are not available or are

Sec. 34-523. Nonsewered toilet system. (cont.)

insufficient in number at the worksite or location of the special event. Such systems shall be furnished by an individual or company licensed by the health department in accordance with the provisions of this article. Systems shall be maintained in a clean, sanitary and functional condition.

- (2) *Permit.* Special events sponsors shall obtain a permit for needed nonsewered toilets as a requirement for authorization to hold the event.
- (3) *Special event.* Determination of the number of toilets required during anticipated peak attendance at a special event shall be in accordance with the tables contained in the sanitarian and health official guide entitled "Portable Restroom Requirements at Special Events and Crowd Gatherings" as developed by the Center for Business and Industrial Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis, and shall take into consideration any sewered seated or urinal toilets that may be present at the site of the special events.
- (4) *Employee use.* Accessible nonsewered toilets shall be provided in the ratio of one toilet per ten employees according to the following table:

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TOILET FACILITIES

Number of Employees	Minimum Number of Toilet Facilities If Serviced Once Per Week
1--10	1
11--20	2
21--30	3
31--40	4
Over 40, for each 10 additional employees	1 additional facility

Where toilet facilities will not be used by women, urinals may be provided instead of toilets, except that the number of toilets in such cases shall not be reduced to less than two-thirds of the minimum specified. Separate toilets shall be provided for each sex in the same ratio when there are more than 20 employees of both sexes.

- (b) *License to operate a nonsewered toilet service.*
 - (1) *Annual license.* Any person or organization in the business of operating a nonsewered toilet service may be required to obtain an annual license from the health department to operate. A fee of \$100.00 per year may be charged by the health department prior to the issuance of the annual license to operate. The health department shall not issue a license to operate, or shall revoke any license issued, if the licensee does not meet the requirements of this article.
 - (2) *Equipment.* The operator of a nonsewered toilet service must provide an approved area that is suitable for the storage and maintenance of all equipment used in the operation and that is maintained in a neat and clean condition at all times. The health department may inspect the nonsewered toilet service operation area at least annually to ensure compliance with this article.
- (c) *Construction/maintenance/servicing.* Nonsewered toilets shall be constructed in the following prescribed manner and maintained in a clean, sanitary and functional condition:
 - (1) *Definition.* A nonsewered toilet (portable toilet) is a self-contained unit equipped with a waste-receiving holding container.

Sec. 34-523. Nonsewered toilet system. (cont.)

- (2) *Housing.* Rooms, buildings or shelters housing toilets shall be of solid construction, easy to clean and provide shelter and privacy. The toilet room shall be ventilated to the outside and adequately lighted. All ventilation openings to the toilet room shall be covered with 16 mesh screen. Internal latches shall be provided to assure units from inadvertent entry.
 - (3) *Waste containers.* Waste containers shall be fabricated from impervious materials. Containers shall be watertight and capable of containing the waste in a sanitary manner. Containers shall be adequate in size to be used by the number of persons, according to the schedule for minimum requirements under this section, without filling the container to more than half of its volume before regularly scheduled service.
 - (4) *Service period.* Service shall be performed at least once per week by a licensed nonsewered toilet service in accordance with this article.
 - (5) *Servicing units.* Servicing shall include the use of a cleaning solution for cleaning urinals and seats, removing waste from containers, recharging containers with an odor-controlling solution and installing an adequate supply of toilet tissue. Employers and event sponsors shall be responsible for contracting servicing intervals frequent enough to ensure clean, sanitary facilities.
 - (6) *Defective unit.* Any defective or inadequate toilet unit shall be repaired or withdrawn from service by locking or removal.
 - (7) *Waste removal.* Removal of waste shall be conducted in a clean and sanitary manner by means of a vacuum hose to a leakproof tank truck on which all ports are properly valved and capped.
 - (8) *Truck access.* Provisions shall be made so service trucks have safe and convenient access at all times to the toilets to be serviced.
 - (9) *Waste disposal.* Disposal of waste from tank trucks shall be in accordance with the health department requirements. Waste must be disposed of through a public or community sewage system at a reasonable cost to the disposer.
- (d) *Location.*
- (1) *General.* The location of nonsewered toilets shall be as close as practical to the highest concentration of employees or to participants, observers and employees of special events. The safety of users shall be a consideration in the placement of units.
 - (2) *Worksites.* At all worksites, toilet facilities shall be located within 200 feet horizontally of any employee's work station.
 - (3) *Multistory structures.* On multistory structures that are worksites, toilet facilities shall be located on floors not more than 30 feet vertically from each other.
 - (4) *Hand labor sites.* At all agricultural hand labor sites, toilet facilities shall be located within one-quarter mile of each employee's work place.
 - (5) *Special events.* At special events, toilet facilities shall be located convenient to participants and accessible at all times for maintenance by truck.
 - (6) *Other requirements/stipulations.* Any other specific requirements or stipulations not covered in this article shall be subject to all applicable state requirements.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-18)

Sec. 34-524. Privies.

- (a) *Location.* Pit privies shall be located downgrade and not less than 50 feet from any well or spring used as a source of water supply for domestic use and human consumption and shall not be within 20 feet from any property line.
- (b) *Size of pit.* The pit shall be an excavation approximately three feet six inches square and not less than three feet deep or greater than five feet deep.
- (c) *Floor and riser.* A floor at least four feet square with a riser and lid shall be placed over the pit in such manner as to prevent access of rodents and insects to the pit. The seat lid shall be so hinged as to close automatically and remain closed when not in use.
- (d) *Earth backfill.* Sufficiently tempered earth fill shall be placed around the base of the pit privy in such manner as to prevent surface water from entering the pit.
- (e) *Use.* Use of the pit privy shall be discontinued and the pit filled with earth when the contents of the pit accumulate within 18 inches of ground surface.
- (f) *Construction detail.* A pit privy, including structure, shall be constructed in accordance with this article and in accordance with the current DHR Manual For On-Site Sewage Management System.
- (g) *Permit/approval.* A permit must be obtained from the health department to construct a pit privy and final construction approval given prior to use.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7-19)

Sec. 34-525. Tables.

TABLE A

MANDATORY CONNECTION CRITERIA--
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Maximum Anticipated Average Daily Sewage Flow (gpd)	Distance to Public or Commercial Sewerage System (feet)
$X \leq 1,000$	500
$1,000 < X \leq 3,000$	1,000
$3,000 < X \leq 6,000$	1,500
$X >> 6,000$	2,000

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7, table A)

TABLE B

MANDATORY CONNECTION CRITERIA--
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

TABLE INSET:

Number of Lots	Distance to Public or Community Sewerage System (feet)
$6 \leq X \leq 25$	1,000
$25 < X \leq 50$	1,500
$X >> 50$	2,000

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7, table B)

TABLE C

SEPARATION DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Reference Item	Minimum Separation (feet) Septic Tank	Minimum Separation (feet) Absorption Field
Bored wells, springs (existing, proposed or abandoned)	50*	100*
Drilled wells (existing, proposed or abandoned)	25	50*
Suction water lines	50	100
Pressure water lines	10	10**
Lakes, ponds, streams, waterways	25	50
Edge of drainage ditch (draw)	15	15
Edge of embankment	15	15
Retaining wall (uphill)	15	15
Retaining wall (downhill)	5	5
Building structure	10	10
Pool wall	10	10
Edge of pavement	5	5
Property line (public water)	10	10
Property line (Individual water supplies)	50	50
Retention, detention ponds (100-year pond elevation)	15	15
Illegal trash pits***	15	15

*Minimum separation distances from the septic tank and absorption field and abandoned wells may be reduced to 25 feet if the abandoned well is filled and compacted (in three-foot layers maximum) with any material approved by the health department. The top of the abandoned well shall also be sealed and capped as approved by the health department.

**Pressure water lines may be allowed in the cover over the system but not the absorption field trench if approved by the health department.

***No trash pits shall be allowed on lots (residential or commercial) where an onsite sewage management system is proposed unless approved by the health department and the appropriate governmental jurisdiction. Health department approval of any trash pit shall be limited only to its location relative to the proposed location of the onsite system. See detail B.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7, table C)

TABLE D

SEWAGE FLOW SCHEDULE

Type of Establishment	Gallons Per Day (Unless Otherwise Noted)
Assembly halls, per seat	3
Boardinghouses, per person	75
Roominghouses, per person	60
Churches, not including assembly halls, classrooms, day care centers, kindergarten, etc., per seat	3
Church classrooms, per person	5
Church kitchen waste, per person (based on dining area)	3
Day care centers and kindergartens, no meals, per child	20
Residence, including independent mobile homes and cottages: see section 34-517	
Food service establishments, per customer	13
Add, for cocktail lounge, per customer	2
Retail service, per customer	5
Swimming pools, bathhouse, per bather based on bathing load (see article XII of this chapter entitled "swimming pools")	20
Taverns, bars and cocktail lounges, no meals, per customer	20
Workers/employees, including factory, office, school, commercial and construction, without showers and no industrial waste, per person	25
Workers/employees, including factory, office, school, commercial and construction, with showers and no industrial waste, per person	35

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7, table D)

TABLE E

MAXIMUM OCCUPANCY

Type of Establishment	Person(s)/Floor Area (square feet)
Assembly halls	No ratio for fixed seating, stated on plans (approved by the fire department), or 1/15 for moveable seating
*Churches, not including assembly halls, day care centers, kindergartens, etc.	No ratio for fixed seating, stated on plans (approved by the fire department), or 1/7 for moveable seating
Church classrooms	1/20
Day care centers/kindergartens	No ratio for number of children and employees, stated on plans (approved by DHR, day care licensing division, or 1/35, not including employees
*Food service establishments	No ratio for fixed seating, stated on plans (approved by the fire department), or 1/15 for moveable seating
Office	1/100
Retail service:	
Employees	1/1,000
Customers (first floor/ground floor)	1/30
Customers (remaining floors)	1/60
Warehouse/storage	1/300

Maximum occupancies not listed in this table shall be determined in accordance with the Fulton County Fire Department regulations.

*Does not include employees to be identified in the letter of intent and calculated based on the remaining total gross floor area (not deducted in table E) at a ratio of 1:100.

(Res. of 9-7-88(3), § 30-2-7, table E)