



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

246 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614/466-3543  
www.odh.ohio.gov

John R. Kasich/Governor

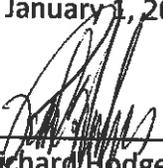
Richard Hodges/Director of Health

## DIRECTOR'S JOURNAL ENTRY APPROVAL OF OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SOIL EVALUATORS FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3701-29-07 (A) describes the qualifications necessary for soil evaluators to conduct soil evaluations in Ohio for sewage treatment system designs. Sewage treatment system designs rely extensively on the information contained in a soil evaluation as specified in OAC Rule 3701-29-07 paragraphs (C), (D) and (E) to determine designs that are appropriate for a site. Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3701-29-07 (A) (4) authorizes the Director of Health to allow other persons approved under a certification program or other training program to conduct soil evaluations for sewage treatment systems. The Ohio Department of Health has established the attached criteria for soil evaluators who wish to demonstrate meeting the alternative training program prescribed in this rule.

Soil evaluators who successfully demonstrate to the Ohio Department of Health that they meet at least two of the required criteria may conduct soil evaluations through the remainder of calendar year 2015 upon acknowledgement of said demonstration by the Ohio Department of Health. All persons who wish to conduct soil evaluations after December 31, 2015 that do not meet the criteria specified in OAC Rule 3701-29-07, paragraphs (A)(1), (2), (3) or (4) shall demonstrate to the Ohio Department of Health that they meet the requirements established by this journal entry and the attached criteria by January 1, 2016.

2/27/15  
Date

  
Richard Hodges MPA  
Director of Health

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the Journal Entry of the Director of the Ohio Department of Health.

2-27-2015  
Date

  
Brenda M. Calam  
Custodian of the Director's Journals  
Ohio Department of Health



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### Criteria for Approval of Alternative Training/Experience for Soil Scientists 2/2015

Sewage treatment system designs in Ohio rely extensively on identification of the soil properties to determine the correct system designs appropriate for a lot. The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29-08 requires knowledgeable soils scientists and identifies the following training and experience that is necessary to conduct soil evaluations in Ohio:

#### **3701-29-07 Soil evaluation and soil evaluators.**

- (A) *Soil evaluators shall have the knowledge and experience to facilitate the review of site and soil conditions, information provided by the homeowner, and these rules to identify appropriate areas for the siting of STS or GWRS. Soil evaluators shall be knowledgeable of the requirements of this chapter, available STS technologies, and the science of pedology. Soil evaluations shall be completed by:*
- (1) *A soil scientist or soil classifier certified by the soil science society of America (SSSA) completing the soil evaluation while acting as an independent agent of the owner or board of health;*
  - (2) *A SSSA associated professional soil scientist that is supervised by a SSSA certified soil scientist completing the soil evaluation while acting as an independent agent of the owner or board of health;*
  - (3) *A soil professional registered by a state or national organization with equivalent minimum qualifications and/or demonstration of competency for soil evaluation as approved by the director of health;*
  - (4) *A registered sanitarian employed by the board of health having jurisdiction where the soil evaluation is to take place completing the soil evaluation on behalf of the board of health when the employee is determined by the board of health to be capable of meeting the tasks in paragraph (C) of this rule; or*
  - (5) *Other persons approved under a certification program or other training program as approved by the director of health.*

The purpose of this document is to provide a consistent methodology and criteria for reviewing and acting upon requests from soil scientists for approval from the Director of Health to conduct soil evaluations in Ohio that have not met the specification for paragraphs (A)(1) through (3) listed above. This criteria may also be used by boards of health to evaluate the qualifications and competency of their sanitarians to determine if they are capable of conducting soil evaluations per paragraph (A) (4) cited above.

Each applicant to conduct soils evaluations shall provide demonstration of the following to the Bureau of Environmental Health, Ohio Department of Health:

#### Education

Soil scientists requesting to conduct soil evaluations in Ohio for meeting the requirements of paragraph (A) (5) of OAC rule 3701-29-07 shall demonstrate the following education and experience:

1. Hold a Bachelor's degree in soil science or closely related agricultural, earth or environmental science program with a named soil science or similar minor, or demonstration of at least 5 soil science classes from an accredited academic institution, or;
2. Hold a MS or PhD degree in soil science or closely related agricultural, earth or environmental science program with a named soil science or similar minor, or demonstration of at least 5 soil science classes from an accredited academic institution, or;
3. Demonstration of equivalent U.S. military coursework or training in soil science.

#### Experience

1. A minimum of 5 years of work experience as a soil scientist conducting soil evaluations for sewage system designs or similar field applications, and;
2. A minimum of 1 year working or volunteering under the direction of a Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) certified soil scientists, soil scientists employed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service or the Division of Soil and Water Resources, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, or under a professor at an accredited academic institution.

#### References

1. Submission of two references. One reference shall be from a local health district where the soil evaluator has conducted soil evaluations. One reference shall be from a SSSA certified soil scientists or other equivalent soils professional.

#### Work Examples

1. The applicant shall submit 5 examples of soil evaluations completed using the ODH form for five different sites with varying soil conditions reflective of the area of the state where the soil scientist has previous experience and practice. The examples submitted should demonstrate at a minimum identification of seasonal water table and the presence of redoximorphic depletions, and relevant limiting conditions for the sites evaluated.

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#### Program Contact Information:

Residential Water and Sewage Program  
Bureau of Environmental Health  
Ohio Department of Health  
246 N. High St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614.644.7551/BEH@odh.ohio.gov