

Septic Program

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Below is information that may answer your questions regarding Le Sueur County compliance inspection requirements for existing subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS).

Compliance Inspections:

- Only Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) licensed septic contractors with an **Inspector, Intermediate Inspector, and/or Advanced Inspector License** can conduct compliance inspections.
 - An **Inspector** is authorized to conduct compliance inspections on systems classified as Type I - III systems with design flows of 2,500 gallons per day or less. An Inspector is not authorized to conduct compliance inspections on systems with a registered treatment product and/or high strength waste (for example – a septic system that includes an aerobic treatment unit, peat filter, media filter, or services a restaurant).
 - An **Intermediate Inspector** is authorized to conduct compliance inspections on systems classified as Type I - V systems with design flows of 2,500 gallons per day or less. An Intermediate Inspector is authorized to conduct compliance inspections on systems with a registered treatment product but not for a system that treats high strength waste (for example – a septic system that services a restaurant).
 - An **Advanced Inspector** is authorized to conduct compliance inspections on systems classified as Type I – V systems with design flows up 10,000 gallons per day or less and for systems that treat high strength waste.
 - For a listing of MPCA licensed septic contractors, please go to the MPCA website at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/ssts-search>.
- Per the Le Sueur County Zoning Ordinance, Section 17, compliance inspections shall be required when any of the following conditions occur:
 - In all **non-shoreland** Zoning Districts, a compliance inspection must be completed prior to any zoning permit application for the principle structure, Variance or Conditional Use Permit application.
 - In all **shoreland** Zoning Districts, a compliance inspection must be completed prior to any zoning permit application, Variance or Conditional Use Permit application.
 - When a construction permit is required to repair, modify, or upgrade an existing system.
 - Any time there is a change in use of the property and/or expansion of the structure being served by an existing SSTS, which may impact the performance of the system.
 - Prior to property sale or transfer.
 - At any time as required by this Section or the Department deems appropriate such as upon receipt of a complaint or other notice of a system malfunction.
 - All property conveyances subject to this Section occurring during the period between **November 1 and April 30**, or when an SSTS compliance cannot be determined due to frozen soil conditions, shall require a compliance inspection by the following **June 1** by a licensed inspection business.
 - If the SSTS is determined not to be protective of groundwater, the landowner shall submit a certificate of compliance by the following **September 30th**.
 - If the SSTS is determined to be an imminent threat to public health or safety, the landowner shall submit a certificate of compliance by the following **June 30th**.
- It is the LANDOWNER'S responsibility to have the compliance inspection completed.
- The county inspects NEW systems ONLY. Compliance inspections for existing systems are conducted by MPCA licensed inspectors, intermediate inspectors, or advanced inspectors.

If you have further questions, please contact the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department at 507-357-8538 between the office hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Fridays.