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## **Environmental Guidelines for the Operation of Lodges**

- **Spill Reporting**
- **Onsite Sewage Disposal**
- **Solid Waste Handling**
- **Petroleum Handling and Storage**

## **Definition**

These types of operations are normally fly-in type operations, though some are accessible by road, and where a full range of services are provided to the client. They may be the base for the client stay or the client may continue on to an outcamp operated by the lodge. The following guidelines cover aspects of spill reporting, sewage and greywater disposal, petroleum product handling, solid waste disposal. The requirements in this document are administered by the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement branch of Conservation and Water Stewardship. To obtain all of the necessary permits and approvals for your operation you may also need to contact other agencies such as Public Health and the Office of Drinking Water. Contact information for other departments in the provincial government may be found at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/index.html>

## **Environment Act & Regulations**

### **A. Spill Reporting – The *Environment Act* (E125 Sec. 30.1)**

- i) Persons responsible for the unauthorized release of a pollutant into the environment have a legal obligation to report the spill.
- ii) Persons responsible for a pollutant that has been or will imminently be released into the environment also have a legal obligation to report the incident.

**To report a spill, call the Emergency Response Line at (204) 944-4888.**

### **B. Sewage Disposal - *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation* (MR 83/2003)**

**Any new installation, modification or repairs to an existing system requires a proposal to be registered with the regional office of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. Authorization to proceed with the work proposed must be received from an Environment Officer before construction begins.**

- i) **Septic Tanks and Holding Tanks**  
Septic tanks and holding tanks must:
  - be watertight and bear a CSA valid stamp (B66-00);
  - be constructed of concrete, fiberglass, polyethylene or other approved material;

- have a perpendicular access shaft that extends above the ground surface;
- have child resistant covers;
- be of minimum size (4,500 litres/3,400 litres when using low flush toilets); and
- be located a minimum of 15m from surface water.

**Holding tanks are prohibited except where the lodge is accessible by road and pump out service is available.**

ii) **Disposal Fields**

Disposal fields must:

- not be located in the Nutrient Management Zone N4, in a provincial park, Crown land cottage subdivision or in sensitive areas unless otherwise approved in writing;
- be of a design approved by an Environment Officer;
- be in an approved location, setback a minimum of 30m from surface water and 6m from a habitable building without a basement or cellar;
- not be located where the depth of the soil is less than 1 m from the base of the field to the bedrock or high water table; and
- not leak onto the ground surface.

iii) **Sewage Ejectors**

Sewage ejectors are prohibited, unless if previously approved in writing. *Existing, non-compliant sewage ejector systems should not be considered as "grandfathered"*. Once identified, operations using non-compliant sewage ejector systems will be required to upgrade.

iv) **Greywater Pits (bath water, dish water, laundry water)**

Greywater is not permitted to be discharged onto the surface of the ground. Greywater pits are only permitted when the camp is not serviced by a water system under pressure. A greywater pit must be located a minimum of 30 m from surface water. The depth of the pit must be shallow and the bottom of the pit must be a minimum of 1 metre from the bedrock or high water table. The pit should remain covered when not in use.

To decommission a greywater pit, the pit must be covered over with earth.

v) **Greywater Disposal Fields**

Greywater fields are used to service buildings that are serviced by a water system under pressure. They are designed and constructed using the same specifications as a disposal field. A 25 % reduction in the area of the field is permitted when the disposal field accepts greywater only.

- vi) **Septage Disposal**  
Removal and disposal of solids (septage) from septic tanks must be done in a manner approved by an Environment Officer.
- vii) **Composting Toilets**  
Composting toilets are exempt from registration. These units must conform to the requirements of NSF Standard 41. When using a composting toilet the grey water generated by the lodge must be disposed of into a disposal field or a greywater pit (if the water is not under pressure).
- viii) **Secondary Treatment Units**  
Wastewater from secondary treatment units (sewage treatment plants, mobile treatment units) must be discharged to dispersal fields. Direct discharge to the ground or to surface water is not permitted unless otherwise approved in writing. Prior to installation and use the proposed system must be reviewed and approved by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. Secondary treatment units must be installed, monitored and serviced by factory trained certified installers.
- ix) **Environment Act Licence**  
Facilities producing a combined sewage flow of greater than 10,000 litres per day must file a proposal with the Environmental Assessment and Licencing Branch prior to any construction activity.
- i) **Outside Toilets (Pit Privies)**  
The building is to be of sound construction, vented, fly proof and sanitary. A pit privy must be at least 6m from any habitable building and must be at least 30m from surface water. The pit shall be of adequate depth and located where the soil depth, measured from the bottom of the pit is a minimum of 1 m from the bedrock or normal high water table.  
To decommission a pit privy, the pit privy hole must be covered over with earth.

For more information on wastewater disposal please visit the website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/wastewater/index.html>

### **C. Solid Waste Handling - *Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation(MR 150/91)***

A waste disposal ground means a parcel of land that is used for the disposal of solid or industrial waste.

- i) No person can construct or operate a waste disposal ground on a site not approved by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship.
- ii) An Operating Permit is required prior to constructing a new waste disposal ground.
- iii) Operators of waste disposal sites that do not have a valid Operating Permit, but which are currently in use, shall apply for an operating permit. The permit may contain provisions for recycling, incineration, or burial. The person or persons issued the permit must ensure that all conditions listed in the permit are met.
- iv) Readily decomposable materials such as fish offal and kitchen scraps, can be disposed of by burial, or managed in such a manner that does not attract wildlife, unless used as an animal attractant.
- v) Solid waste should be removed from the site and disposed of at a waste disposal ground authorized by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship.
- vi) Lodges owners are encouraged to consider recycling materials such as glass, plastic, metals and paper as a component of their solid waste management strategy. These materials should be disposed of at a recycling centre where possible.

For more information on solid waste disposal please visit the website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/swm/index.html>

## **Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act Regulations**

### **A. Petroleum Product Handling & Storage - *Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation (MR 188/2001)***

#### **Aboveground Petroleum Product Storage**

All aboveground petroleum product storage installations 5000 litres or greater must be registered and approved by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship prior to installation.

- i) Aboveground storage tanks 5000 litres or greater are subject to MR 188/2001 in its entirety.
- ii) Aboveground storage tanks less than 5000 litres are subject to partial application of the regulation.

- iii) Prior to installing an aboveground storage tank with a capacity of 5000 litres or greater, a Licensed Petroleum Technician must apply for and obtain a permit to construct, alter or remove.
- iv) A Licensed Petroleum Technician is required on site for any installation, alteration or removal of any aboveground storage tank of 5000 litres or greater.
- v) A valid Operating Permit is required to obtain fuel for aboveground storage tanks with a capacity of 5000 litres or greater.

### **Underground Petroleum Product Storage**

All underground petroleum product storage installations must be registered and approved by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship prior to installation.

- i) Prior to installation, all underground storage tanks require that a Licensed Petroleum Technician obtain a permit to construct, alter or remove.
- ii) A Licensed Petroleum Technician is required to be on site for any installation, alteration or removal of any underground storage tank.
- iii) A valid Operating Permit is required to legally obtain fuel in an underground storage tank.

### **Petroleum Storage (Aboveground and Underground Facilities)**

- i) No person shall directly or indirectly contaminate the soil or any body of water by causing or permitting leakage from a storage tank system or by causing or permitting the dumping, depositing, dropping, throwing, discarding, or leaving of gasoline or associated product.
- ii) All fuel transfers must be supervised at all times so that product transfer can be immediately stopped if required.
- iii) All spills or leaks involving 100 litres or more must be reported to the Emergency Response Line at (204) 944-4888. Steps must be taken immediately to contain the spill and restore the environment to its original state.

For more information on petroleum storage and handling please visit the website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/psp>

## **Contact Information**

If you have questions or concerns regarding these guidelines, please follow the link below for the contact information for an Environment Officer in your area.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/ece/contact.html>

## **Responsibility**

This document is a guideline only; the Province of Manitoba assumes no legal liability. The owner / operator of the facility must assume responsibility for the condition of the facility and equipment and its operation and must ensure that all applicable legislation is followed.