

THE EFFLUENCER

VOL. 4

Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations



Small Wastewater Systems

The *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations* (the Regulations) are made under the authority of the *Fisheries Act*.

The Regulations apply to your wastewater system if:

- It collects an average daily volume of 100 cubic meters (m³) or more of influent; and,
- It deposits effluent into water frequented by fish, or into a place that may enter water frequented by fish.

The requirements in this factsheet apply to owners and operators of small wastewater systems that deposit an average daily effluent volume of **2,500 cubic meters (m³) or less per day**.

Main Requirements of the Regulations

1) Effluent Quality Standards

To protect the environment and human health and to comply with the Regulations, the effluent must meet specific conditions during discharge:

- Effluent deposited cannot be acutely lethal.
- Limits on the concentrations of certain pollutants; carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD), suspended solids, total residual chlorine and un-ionized ammonia.

| Pollutant | Limit | Sample | Report Results |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand | Average ≤ 25 mg/L | Yes | Yes |
| Suspended solids | Average ≤ 25 mg/L | Yes | Yes |
| Total residual chlorine | Average ≤ 0.02 mg/L | Not required | Not required |
| Unionized ammonia | Maximum < 1.25 mg/L | Not required | Not required |

Acute lethality testing is not required for systems depositing less than 2,500m³ per day. If you do test it for any reason, results must be reported.

2) Effluent Monitoring and Reporting

Under the Regulations, **you are required to:**

- submit, and keep up-to-date, an identification report for your wastewater system;
- sample wastewater effluent and monitor effluent volume;
- submit ongoing monitoring reports with effluent volume, averages of CBOD and suspended solids results, and acute lethality results (if applicable).



Sampling and reporting frequencies vary depending on the type of wastewater system:

| Discharge Frequency | System Type | Sampling Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Continuous | Mechanical Plant or outfall | Monthly, at least 10 days after previous sample | Quarterly |
| Continuous | Lagoon | Quarterly, at least 60 days after previous sample | Annually |
| Intermittent | Lagoon | Once at Discharge If discharge is more than 30 days, sample every 2 weeks, at least 7 days after previous sample | Annually |

- Annual reports are due **February 14** of each year.
- Quarterly reports are due **February 14, May 15, August 14, November 14** each year.
- You must create the report in the Effluent Reporting Information System (ERRIS) via the Single Window Information Manager (SWIM) at <https://ec.ss.ec.gc.ca/>.
- Paper reporting forms are available and can be sent upon request.

3) Record Keeping

You must keep all related records on site for a **minimum of five years**.

For Additional Information

Visit the Wastewater website at Canada.ca/wastewater.

For support with regulatory requirements, sampling guidance and reporting, please contact eu-ww@ec.gc.ca

For Indigenous communities, please contact your regional ECCC representative:

Pacific and Yukon: promcon-py-compro@ec.gc.ca

Prairie and Northern: promconrpn-compropnr@ec.gc.ca

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DISCLAIMER

This information does not in any way supersede or modify the *Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations* or the *Fisheries Act*, or offer any legal interpretation of those Regulations or Act. Where there are any inconsistencies between this information and the Regulations or Act, the Regulations or Act take precedence, respectively. A copy of the Regulations is available at the following website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/Regulations/SOR-2012-139/FullText.html>

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