

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### Practice Bulletin - Onsite Wastewater System Inspections

#### **Why did ASTTBC make this change?**

We recognize the training and experience of ROWPs with the Planner (PL) and Maintenance Provider (MP) endorsements provides the required systems-level competency needed to perform private inspections for onsite wastewater systems. ASTTBC policy previously required a ROWP to become endorsed as a Private Inspector in order to provide these services.

However, the current legislation in BC under the Sewerage System Regulation (SSR) and the Standard Practice Manual (SPM) do not currently require individuals providing inspection services to be registered with ASTTBC or as an Authorized Person (AP).

The current change was initiated to remove unnecessary and unfair barriers to practice for ROWPs, while enhancing levels of safety for applied science and engineering projects and services. An example where this change would benefit the public and expand the pool of competent APs available is the recent atmospheric river disaster in the Sumas Prairie.

#### **Why are ASTTBC ROWP Installers not permitted to do inspections?**

In general, when performance or compliance inspections are required, knowledge of different types of systems, filing requirements and other critical system information is needed which may fall outside the scope of knowledge of an installer. ROWP Installers who feel they have the education and experience and competencies to perform inspections are encouraged to apply for the inspector endorsement.

#### **Will I be reimbursed the money I spent to achieve this endorsement?**

No, there will not be any reimbursements provided. PI endorsements are still offered and registrants who achieved this endorsement are still permitted to use it.

#### **By allowing anyone to inspect a system will the public be facing additional safety issues?**

Allowing individuals who have not demonstrated competencies and experience, or those who are not practising under an accountability model to inspect onsite wastewater systems poses a risk to public health and safety, and to the environment. Engaging an ASTTBC Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP), or other authorized person, means the work performed is done so by an individual who is registered and accountable to perform the work. They have specialized training, competence and experience that qualifies them to do the work.

**Does this give consumers access to more inspectors which can be difficult to find?**

Yes. Because ROWP Planners and Maintenance Providers are now permitted to conduct private inspections, consumers will have more access to competent individuals who can do the inspections.

**I'm currently registered as a Planner and/or Maintenance provider, can I use the endorsements currently in use for private inspections (Private Inspector Residential (PIR) / Private Inspector Commercial (PIC))?**

No, only registrants who have achieved the endorsement as a private inspector are permitted to use the designations. As a planner or maintenance provider, the scope of your permitted practice now recognizes you to conduct performance or compliance inspections for residential or commercial systems provided you are competent to perform the activity.

**Should I get the Private Inspector endorsements added to my registration?**

If you are a ROWP installer, we encourage qualified registrants to add the private inspector endorsement to your ROWP designation if you would like to carryout inspection activities. The advantage of having the endorsements sends a signal to others and the public that you're recognized by ASTTBC in having the requirements needed to be registered in those areas of practice. ROWP Planners and Maintenance Providers are not required to obtain the Private Inspector endorsement in order to conduct inspections.

**Will ASTTBC continue to accept applications for PIR/PIC from applicants who want to complete work for this endorsement and do not have MP or PL?**

Yes. Individuals who wish to become endorsed as a Private Inspector in the residential or commercial categories may still apply.

**If we permit PL and MP folks to apply for PIC/PIR, what does the application/submission requirements and process look like, can they sign off on their own project files?**

Individuals who are applying for the Private Inspector endorsement are required to demonstrate how they meet the competency requirements for registration to the Credentials Committee.

**Additional Questions:**

Additional questions may be directed to the ASTTBC Professional Practice Department using our [Practice Advice Program](#) webpage, or by emailing directly to [practiceinfo@asttbc.org](mailto:practiceinfo@asttbc.org).