

To help you navigate the complexities of SSTS licensing and certification, here's a list of some commonly asked questions. Visit "SSTS Professionals" at septic.umn.edu for more detailed information and a list of the appropriate MPCA or OSTP contacts to address your questions.

Who needs a Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems license?

All private businesses in Minnesota that design, install, maintain, inspect and service subsurface sewage treatment systems must be licensed with the MPCA. Licenses must be renewed every year and proof of insurance, proof of an SSTS Surety Bond and an annual fee are required. For licensing details visit: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/ssts-business-licensing-individual-certification-and-enforcement.

Who must be certified?

Minnesota law requires that at least one employee with each MPCA-licensed subsurface sewage treatment system business be certified in each of the business' areas of specialty. Certain job tasks for each of the specialty areas can only be completed by the certified individual that has been designated by the licensed business. Additionally, individuals who conduct certain SSTS job tasks for state, county, township or city government must be certified in the specialty area(s) specific to the work they complete.

What kind of certification do I need?

Specialty Area Certification Categories and Training Requirements		
<i>To do this type of work</i>	<i>You need this type of training & examination[^]</i>	<i>Certification in this specialty area</i>
Install SSTS	Introduction, Installing	Installer
Sewage tank evaluation, cleaning, and repairs, portable toilets & septage management	Introduction, Maintaining	Maintainer
SSTS operational assessment, adjustment, sampling and interpretation of operational performance, repair, groundwater monitoring, or collection system maintenance	Introduction, Service Provider	Service Provider
Design of Type I – Type III systems ≤ 2,500 gpd	Introduction, Installing, Basic Design, Soils	Basic Designer
Design of Type I – V* systems ≤ 2,500 gpd	Introduction, Installing, Basic Design, Soils, Intermediate Design and Inspection	Intermediate Designer
Design of Type I – Type V* systems ≤ 10,000 gpd	Introduction, Installing, Basic Design, Soils, Intermediate Design and Inspection, Advanced Design and Inspection	Advanced Designer
Inspection of Type I – Type III systems ≤ 2,500 gpd	Introduction, Installing, Basic Design, Inspecting, Soils	Basic Inspector
Inspection of Type I – V* systems ≤ 2,500 gpd	Introduction, Installing, Basic Design, Inspecting, Soils, Service Provider, Intermediate Design and Inspection	Intermediate Inspector
Inspection of Type I – Type V* systems ≤ 10,000 gpd	Introduction, Installing, Basic Design, Inspecting, Soils, Service Provider, Intermediate Design and Inspection, Advanced Design and Inspection	Advanced Inspector
* Type V SSTS require the expertise of an appropriately licensed AELSLAGID professional		
[^] Any individual who has a physical or mental impairment or limitation may request a special accommodation or special arrangement to take an examination by contacting the MPCA at least 10 days prior to the examination date.		

What's involved in certification and licensing?

Depending on the septic system work you're doing, the state's certification and licensing process requires a combination of training, examination, observation, hands-on mentored experience, continuing education and periodic SSTS Business License renewal. OSTP offers multiple workshops each year to help you meet the training and continuing education requirements of each certification level. Details about the entire process and a certification application are available at: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/ssts-business-licensing-individual-certification-and-enforcement or for customized support, use SSTS quick tips: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/ssts-quicktips

Continuing Education Requirements for Different SSTS Certification Examinations	
<i>Qualifying Exams Completed</i>	<i>Required Continuing Education</i>
Introduction to Onsite Systems Installing Onsite Systems Service Provider	12 credit hours, at least ½ direct*
Maintaining Onsite Systems	12 credit hours, at least ½ direct* OR 9 hours specifically related to pumping SSTS and/or land application
Designing Onsite Systems Inspecting Onsite Systems Soils Intermediate Design & Inspection of Onsite Systems Advanced Design & Inspection of Onsite Systems	18 credit hours, at least 6 of which are of soils education with a field component. At least ½ must be direct* credits
Each individual has one continuing education requirement, regardless of how many exams taken, that is based on the qualifying exam with the most required continuing education . Maximum hours required every 3 years = 18.	
*Direct does not mean that Installers must take Installer CE, Designers must take Designer CE, etc. Direct accreditation means that the training includes the administration and technical parts of Minn. Rule Chapters 7080-7083. Check with your training provider to determine what type and amount of credits they offer.	