ALABAMA STATE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 420-3-1
ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL

420-3-1-.23 Holding Tank Requirements.

(1) Applications that propose using holding tanks as a temporary substitute for an OSS shall be submitted by an engineer and shall be permitted in the same manner as an OSS.

(2) The permanent use of a holding tank for a dwelling as part of a permanent OSS is prohibited.

(a) Use of a holding tank for a system serving a dwelling or establishments on a temporary basis may be permitted by the LHD when there is an emergency situation caused by a system failure that cannot be repaired in a timely manner or when it is the LHD's determination that a holding tank is the only practical solution. The permit period shall not exceed one year.

(3) Permitting conditions shall include the following:

(a) A visual or audible alarm.

(b) A contract with a licensed sewage tank pumper to include submission of pumping records to the LHD.

(4) All pre-made holding tanks shall be permitted by the LHD according to 420-3-1-.19 Pre-made Septic-Tank, Grease Trap, and Holding Tank Permits or if a proposed tank is not a permitted tank series, it shall be inspected and certified in writing by the engineer to be structurally sound and suitable for the intended purpose.

(5) Holding tank capacity shall be calculated using the sewage flows provided by 420-3-1-.52 Design Flow and Wastewater Concentrations. The tank shall be sized to provide a capacity 25 percent larger than the projected sewage flow accumulation between scheduled pumping and as a buffer in case of weather conditions, temporary unavailability of a sewage tank pumper, or other adverse conditions.

(6) A holding tank shall be properly abandoned in compliance with 420-3-1-.24 Abandonment of a Sewage Tank, when its permitted use expires.

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