

Innovative System Permit Requirements

(Updated 2024)

Under Florida Law, Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) and all their components installed in the State are regulated by Chapter 62-6, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). An innovative system is defined by Florida Statutes, Section 381.0065(2), as:

“an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that, in whole or in part, employs materials, devices, or techniques that are novel or unique and that have not been successfully field-tested under sound scientific and engineering principles under climatic and soil conditions found in this state.”

Information on OSTDS Innovative System Permits (ISP) and other applicable regulations can be obtained by clicking on the following link to the [Onsite Sewage Program](#).

Who would apply for this permit?

The owner or developer of the innovative technology who is seeking to have the technology accepted for use in Florida.

How do I apply for an ISP?

To obtain the form necessary to apply for an ISP, you can click the following link to find the appropriate [Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Application Forms](#).

What is the permit application process?

A one-time ISP must be obtained from the [Onsite Sewage Program](#). This permit will allow a limited number of innovative systems to be installed and monitored during a limited period of time. Individual system construction permits for each innovative system to be installed, must be obtained from the local permitting authority. The items listed below are required for a complete ISP application.

- The ISP application, Form [DEP 3143](#) (rule 62-6.026(1), F.A.C.).
 - The application and the supporting information requested in the application, must be signed, dated and sealed by an engineer, licensed in Florida (rule 62-6.026(1), F.A.C.).
 - An application for innovative product approval fee in the amount of \$2,500.00 is required (rule 62-6.030(1)(x), F.A.C.). Checks can be made out to the Department of Environmental Protection.
 - In addition to the data required in application items A, B and D, testing data to address the requirement of rule 62-6.026(1)(b), F.A.C. must be provided. Testing data must be by a third-party testing organization approved through the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program. Technology and innovative system manufacturers have used testing results obtained at NSF-test facilities to address this requirement.
 - The number of innovative systems and the testing time-period you are requesting for your ISP (rule 62-6.027(1), F.A.C.).
 - A detailed monitoring (sampling and analysis) protocol as required by rule 62-6.026(1), F.A.C. The protocol must include a mechanism for assessing

performance by comparing sewage influent and effluent strength and system failure frequency.

- Design and installation criteria for the different treatment units, including a manual (item C of the application form).
- A disinterested third party certifier report or a Florida Registered Engineer report.
- A copy of the system or product warranty (item F of the application form).

What happens after the permit application is submitted to the Onsite Sewage Program?

The Onsite Sewage program will review the application and ask for additional information required to complete the application. Once the application is deemed complete, the Department will review it and will approve or deny the application within statutory timelines. Once you have an ISP for the technology, site-specific OSTDS construction permit applications must be made to the local permitting authority and a construction permit issued for each individual OSTDS.

Please note that during the system construction permitting step, [DEP 3144](#), a homeowner acknowledgment form is required wherein the homeowner acknowledges the fact that he/she is having a system featuring innovative technology installed. In addition, the Onsite Sewage Program must review the construction permit applications to ensure that they are in compliance with the innovative system permit.

Additional Information

An innovative system is statutorily categorized as engineer-designed performance-based treatment system (PBTS), and will require an operating permit, maintenance agreement and maintenance contract.

At the end of the innovative system evaluation period, in accordance with rule 62-6.0295, F.A.C., there is a reclassification and review of the gathered data. For a treatment system, the result of this reclassification could lead to a status of non-innovative performance-based treatment system. For a disposal system/drainfield product, the result of this reclassification could lead to a status of alternative drainfield product.

The treatment receptacles that may house proposed innovative system unit(s) must be approved for such use in the state of Florida. Rule 62-6.013, F.A.C. pertains to the construction materials and standards for treatment receptacles. This process could occur concurrently with the review of an innovative permit application.

Who can I contact to answer additional questions?

If you have specific questions about the ISP process, please contact the Onsite Sewage Program office at 850-245-4070 or email OSP_ProductApproval@floridadep.gov.

For other general OSTDS permitting questions, please contact the local permitting authority. If this is the CHD Environmental Health office in your county, you can find their office [here](#).