

How long does a Compliance Inspection remain valid?

A Certificate of Compliance for an existing SSTS is valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance (unless the Department finds evidence of an imminent health threat).

Can a Compliance Inspection be performed in the Winter?

If the compliance portion of the evaluation cannot be completed at the time of transaction due to prohibitive weather-related conditions (snow cover or frozen ground), it can be delayed but shall be completed by June 1st following the closing date.

Why is a Compliance Inspection Important?

A Compliance Inspection ensures that the system is still functioning as it should and not causing any potential pollution or physical hazards to you, your family, pets or to the surface or ground water.

SERC09.17



Environmental Services

320 Third Street NW
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 332-6113

Fax (507) 332-6277

rcplanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us

When is a Septic Evaluation required in Rice County ?



Rice County Environmental Services

320 Third Street NW
Faribault, MN 55021-6145
Phone (507) 332-6113

RCPlanningZoning@co.rice.mn.us

Rice County requires a Septic ‘Compliance Inspection’:

At time of property transfer

If the system is >5 years old: or a Compliance Inspection has not been conducted within the past three (3) years on an Existing system.

For the issuance of any Building Permit in a Shoreland area

For the issuance of a Building Permit to add a bedroom

For the issuance of a Septic Permit to alter/expand an existing system

For the issuance of a Building Permit to replace a Dwelling

For the issuance of a Septic Variance

For the issuance of a Zoning Variance

For a Parcel split or size reduction

Conditional Use Permits often require a Compliance Inspection

Upon Department discretion if a complaint of an imminent threat to public health or safety is received

Who can perform a Septic Compliance Inspection?

A certified Inspector licensed by the MN Pollution Control Agency

**List of area Inspectors available at the Environmental Services Dpt. or on the Rice County website*

What is a Compliance Inspection?

The privately licensed Inspector consults with owner and reviews County files then visits the site to inspect the system which includes:

Probing the yard for location, size and depth of the system

Performs soil boring to determine the inches of vertical separation between the bottom of the system and the limiting soil layer.

Locating tanks for pumping and inspection.

The tanks are pumped/inspected to determine capacity, safety issues and water tightness.

The inspector compiles findings in a Compliance Inspection Report for submittal to Owners and Rice County within 15 days.

*If the septic system includes artificial drainage (curtain drain) additional monitoring is required between March 20 and May 31st of each year to determine compliance.

*If the system has a Operating Permit, monitoring and testing requirements must be met.

Possible Outcomes of Report

Certificates of Compliance

Notice of Non-Compliance

Owner must obtain a permit to repair or replace system and have the system brought into compliance within 12 months.

Non-Compliant/Imminent Threat to Public Health or Safety

Owner must submit a replacement plan and obtain a permit within a timeframe outlined by the County (not to exceed 30 days). The system must be brought into compliance with the timeline approved in the replacement plan not to exceed 10 months from notice of non-compliance.