



15A NCAC 18E .0805 TANK LEAK TESTING AND INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- (a) All tanks installed under the following conditions shall be leak tested:
- (1) When a SWC (Soil Wetness Condition) is present within four feet of the elevation of the top of a mid-seam pump tank. **Meaning, if the local health department or soil scientist identifies a SWC within 4 feet of the top of a mid-seam pump tank, both the septic tank and mid-seam pump tank shall be leak tested. On the other hand, if the pump tank is a top-seam pump tank, and a SWC is present, then neither the septic tank or the pump tank is required to be tested.**
 - (2) With advanced pretreatment when required in the RWTS or PIA Approval. **Check the approval of the RWTS or PIA system. It can be found on the website for the Onsite Water Protection Branch.**
 - (3) When required in the approved plans and specifications for a wastewater system designed by a PE. **Most of the time, a PE designing the system will require a leak test on all their designs. This includes both Engineer Option Permits and PE designs coming in under 18E .0303(a).**
 - (4) When the tank is constructed in place. **Constructed in place means that the tank is not prefabricated. The tank may be poured in place concrete, or built with concrete block or brick and typically plastered or otherwise coated on the inside. The term “constructed in place” does NOT mean assembled in place. Precast concrete or plastic tanks that are assembled at the jobsite do not necessarily mean they are required to be leak-tested under .0805.**
 - (5) As required by the authorized agent (the LHD) based on site or system specific conditions, such as misaligned seams, exposed reinforcement, or damage observed that may have occurred during transport or installation. **If the authorized agent of the County observes a condition that may be cause for verifying watertightness, they may require a leak test.**

These 5 conditions are the only ones in the 18E rules. If a LHD wishes to expand on these 5 conditions, then the local government should follow General Statute 130A-335(c). Today, only Wake County and Orange County have local rules.

The North Carolina Septic Tank Association wants to make sure you have the correct information about this significant Section of the 18E Rules.