

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tier 3 Onsite Wastewater System Installers

FROM: S.C. Department of Environmental Services

DATE: 12/17/2025

SUBJECT: Bond and Insurance Requirement for Tier 3 Onsite Wastewater System Installers

Pursuant to S.C. Regulation 61-56, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) is responsible for licensing all onsite wastewater contractors in South Carolina. Per Section 700.1(4)(b) of Regulation 61-56, an individual may apply for a Tier 3 onsite wastewater installer license if they qualify as one of the below:

- A licensed onsite wastewater system installer who has been actively installing for three (3) years immediately preceding the date of application with no pending or prior disciplinary or enforcement action involving onsite wastewater system contracting; or
- An onsite wastewater system installer licensee from another state with affidavits from the regulatory authority demonstrating five (5) years of experience with no pending or prior disciplinary or enforcement action involving onsite wastewater system contracting.

An individual applying for a Tier 3 onsite wastewater installer license will also be required to obtain both a bond and insurance coverage pertaining to the installation of septic systems (Section 700.4)(b)(v)). Listed below is more information on both requirements:

- **Bond:** Regulation 61-56 states the bond must be classified as a Surety Bond. The Department recommends the bond amount cover the most expensive system the Tier 3 installer will be installing. The type of Surety bonds the Department has accepted is a "License or Permit" or "Performance" bond. SCDES will need to be listed as the Obligee on the bond form.
- **Insurance:** The type of insurance the Department receives most often is general liability insurance. The insurance amount is at the discretion of the Tier 3 installer. The following will need to be listed as the Certificate Holder on the Certification of Insurance (COI): SCDES, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

For questions related to this information, please contact Christie Watkins by phone at (803) 896-0733 or by email at christie.watkins@des.sc.gov.