



**MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION  
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## **AUTHORIZATION TO USE AN EXISTING SYSTEM**

An Authorization to use an existing system is required when placing into service, reconnecting to, changing the use of, or increasing the projected daily sewage flow into an existing onsite system.

This is required by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Rules [OAR 340-071-0205 (1)]

The above requirement includes:

- placing a hardship mobile home on the property,
- replacing an existing home with a new home,
- placing an addition onto an existing house that increases the number of bedrooms,
- expanding a business (including agricultural buildings where there are employees) or
- changing the use of an existing system.

There are three categories of Authorization Notices. Each category depends on the sewage flows calculated for the particular situation. Sewage flows are calculated on the number of bedrooms in a residence or the number of employees in a business. Residential daily sewage flows are calculated at 150 gallons per bedroom for the first two bedrooms and 75 gallons per bedroom for each additional bedroom.

1. Where no increase in sewage flow is projected beyond the design capacity of the original system, an Authorization Notice may be issued if:
  - (A) The existing system is not failing; and
  - (B) All setbacks between the existing system and all structures can be maintained; and
  - (C) The proposed use would not create a public health hazard.
2. Where sewage flows would not be increased by more than 300 gallons or by more than 50% of the design capacity of the original system, whichever is less, an Authorization Notice may be issued if:
  - (A) The existing system is not failing; and
  - (B) All setbacks between the existing system and all structures can be maintained; and
  - (C) A full system replacement area is available and meets all siting requirements in DEQ rules (except soil conditions and groundwater), is available.
  - (D) The proposed increase would not create a health hazard.
3. Where the sewage flows would be increased by more than 300 gallons or by more than 50% of the design capacity of the system, a Site Evaluation and Construction-Installation permit are required. The proposed installation must be in full compliance with the DEQ Rules.

If you have any questions on which category your situation fits into, please call our office at (503) 588-5147.