

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**LIQUID WASTE PROGRAM**

**GUIDANCE NUMBER 4:** Treatment Level Required for Type Ia Soils

**I. PURPOSE:**

This guidance is provided to clarify the level of treatment required for on-site liquid waste systems constructed in Type Ia soils.

**II. APPLICABILITY:**

This guidance applies to all on-site liquid waste systems constructed in Type Ia soils.

**III. GENERAL:**

There are two sections in the liquid waste regulations, 20.7.3 NMAC, that references the requirements for disposal systems in Type Ia soils (coarse sands).

**IV. GUIDANCE STATEMENT:**

Section 20.7 .3.605B(1) NMAC, **DESIGN; MINIMUM REQUIRED TREATMENT LEVELS FOR SITE CONDITIONS**, states:

- B. The following treatment levels are required for the soil types as described in Table 703.1:
- (1) type Ia -secondary treatment and disinfection;

Section 20.7.3. 703F NMAC, **DESIGN; AREA OF DISPOSAL FIELD AND SEEPAGE PITS**, states:

- F. Conventional treatment systems shall not be constructed in type Ia soils where the depth to groundwater is less than 30 feet, type IV soils, or gravel. For these soils, refer to 20.7.3.605 NMAC.

Reading both sections together, secondary treatment with disinfection is required for Type Ia soils where the depth to groundwater is less than 30 feet. Where the depth to ground water exceeds 30 feet, a conventional on-site liquid waste system may be permitted.

In sizing the disposal system for Type Ia soils, the loading rate of 1.25 sf/gpd, referenced in Table 703.1, is based on primary treated effluent. Section 20.7.3. 703M NMAC allows for up to a 30% reduction of the required absorption area for treated effluent meeting the secondary treatment standard.

**V. APPROVAL:**

Approved by FOD Director 

**VI. EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 12, 2005