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This letter contains information about a new requirement for all manufacturers of precast concrete septic tanks certified to market their tanks for installation in New Mexico. The Liquid Waste Disposal and Treatment Regulations (LWDTR), 20.7.3 NMAC, Sections 501 and 502 describe design and construction standards that all septic tanks must meet. Section 502.E states in part:

“The inlet and outlet pipe openings shall be not less in size than the connecting sewer pipe and shall have a watertight seal approved by the department.”

The department has determined that a primary source of leakage from precast concrete septic tanks is at the outlet connection. **Consequently, all concrete tanks manufactured for installation in New Mexico after March 1, 2009 must include a resilient connector certified to meet or exceed ASTM Standard C923 on the outlet connection of the tank.**

Beginning July 1, 2009, all concrete septic tanks installed in New Mexico will be required to include a resilient connector as described above. Concrete tanks installed with another method of connection at the outlet will not be permitted and, if installed, will be required to be replaced with a tank containing a cast-in resilient connector. Resilient connectors on inlet openings is recommended, but not required.

Questions regarding this letter may be directed to the EHD Engineer, Tom Brandt, at 505-476-8609, by mail at the letterhead address above, or by email at tom.brandt@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Carlos Romero, Director, EHD

cc: Tom Brandt, EHD Engineer
File