



VIDEO 5: CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING - MPCA SSTS ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING

Jane Seaver and
Gretchen Sabel

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Introduction

Jane Seaver, SSTS Certification & Licensing Team Lead
Gretchen Sabel, SSTS Coordinator

Basic Administrative Information; Talk 5 of 13

- SSTS Certification
- SSTS Licensing

Topics for today

- SSTS Specialty Areas
- Certification versus Licensing Comparison
- Qualified Employee (QE) Definition
- Certification Requirements for Inspector QEs

WHAT ARE THE SSTS SPECIALTY AREAS?

Different certifications for different duties...

What are the SSTS Specialty Areas?

- Installer
 - Installation of all SSTS systems
- Maintainer
 - Tank cleaning, tank repairs, portable toilets and septage disposal
- Service Provider
 - System assessment, adjustments, sampling, troubleshooting & repairs of complex systems

What are the SSTS Specialty Areas?

- Designer
 - Design of Type I – Type III ISTS Systems < 2,500 gpd
 - Intermediate Designer
 - Design of Type I – Type V* ISTS Systems <2,500 gpd
 - Advanced Designer
 - Design of Type I – Type V* SSTS Systems <10,000 gpd
- *Type V requires expertise of AELSLAGID professional

What are the SSTS Specialty Areas?

- Inspector

- Inspection of Type I – Type III ISTS Systems < 2,500 gpd

- Intermediate Inspector

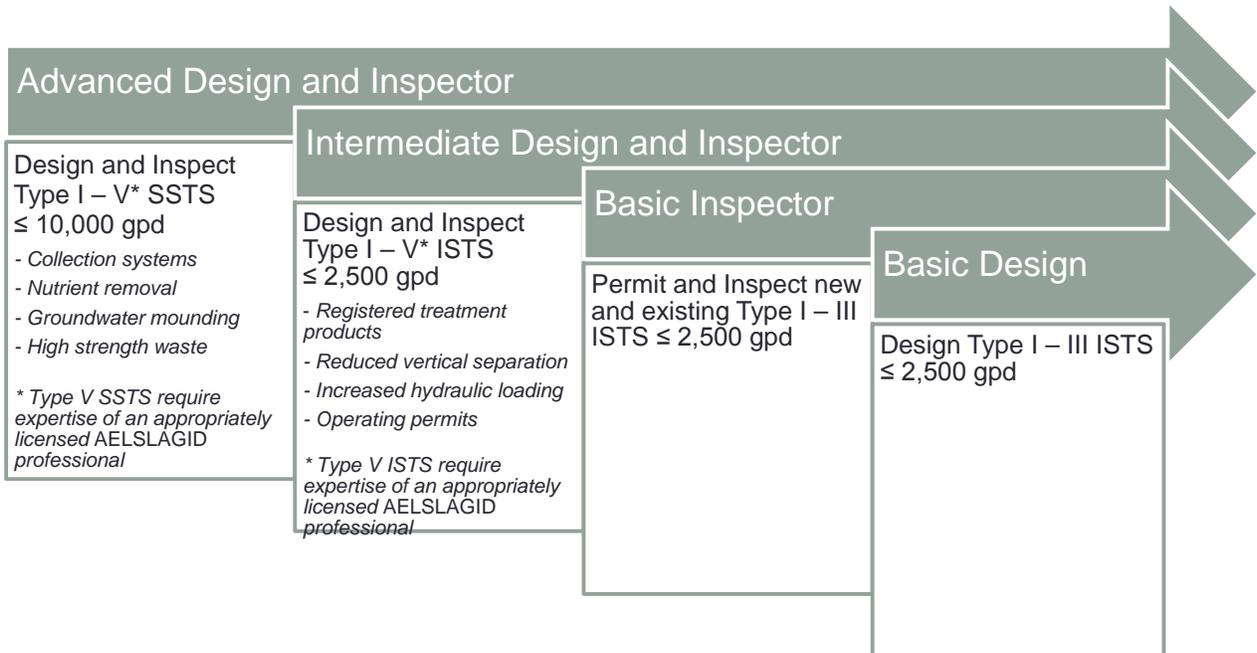
- Inspection of Type I – Type V* ISTS Systems <2,500 gpd

- Advanced Inspector

- Inspection of Type I – Type V* SSTS Systems <10,000 gpd

*Type V requires expertise of AELSLAGID professional

What are the SSTS Specialty Areas?



CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING

What is the difference between Certification & Licensing?

What is the difference between Certification & Licensing?

Certified Individual

- Individual is authorized by the MPCA to independently complete SSTS work under proper Business License or Government Agency
- Authorized to supervise other non-certified skilled workers

What is the difference between Certification & Licensing?

Licensed Business

- Business is authorized by the MPCA to employ SSTS professionals to complete SSTS work
- Must employ at least one Certified Individual in each specialty area = Designated Certified Individual (DCI)
- Must submit proof of Insurance, Surety Bond & Annual fee to the MPCA
- All private SSTS work in the State of MN must be completed under the liability of a properly Licensed Business

WHAT IS A QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE (QE)?

What are the qualifications?

What is a Qualified Employee (QE)?

- Certified Individuals who are authorized by the MPCA to complete SSTS work as an employee of a Government Agency that is responsible for the local SSTS Ordinance
- Such Government Agencies are exempt from the Business License requirement

INSPECTOR QE

What are the steps to becoming Certified as an Inspector QE?

What are the steps to becoming Certified as an Inspector QE?

1. Training

2. Examination

3. Mentored Apprenticeship

4. Continuing Education (Renewal)

Training Courses and 2013 Time & cost to become an Inspector QE

- Inspector
 - Introduction to Onsite Systems* (3 days - \$350)
 - + *Installing Onsite Systems* (2 days - \$250)
 - + *Designing Onsite Systems* (3 days - \$300)
 - + *Inspecting Onsite Systems* (2 days - \$250)
 - + *Soils* (3 days - \$300 w/no Soil color book; \$460 w/Soil color book)
- Intermediate Inspector
 - + *Intermediate Design & Inspection* (4 days - \$425)
- Advanced Inspector
 - + *Advanced Design & Inspection* (4 days - \$425)

Exams required to become an Inspector QE

- MPCA gives an exam during the final session of all Pre-Certification Training Courses
- Test Format
 - Multiple choice
 - Open book
 - 4 hours
- Must score 70% to Pass
 - If an individual scores <70%, they must pay to repeat Training Course or wait six months to re-test at no additional cost

Mentored Apprenticeship required to become an Inspector QE

- To gain a Restricted Inspector Certification, the apprentice must submit an experience plan to the MPCA that identifies the
 - Currently Certified Inspector QE that will provide direct and personal mentorship &
 - Government Agency that will accept the liability for the mentored experience

Mentored Apprenticeship required to become an Inspector QE

- A Restricted Inspector & their mentor are required to
 - Co-complete 15 inspections
 - ✓ At least 1 above ground system
 - ✓ At least 1 below ground system
 - ✓ Observe 5 designs
 - ✓ Observe 5 installations
 - ✓ Observe 5 visits with a Maintainer
- Intermediate & Advanced Inspector Certifications do not require additional mentored experience

Mentored Apprenticeship required to become an Inspector QE

- Restriction requiring Inspector to work with mentor will be lifted upon approval of experience documentation by MPCA
- There is no time limit to complete mentored apprenticeship
- Note: QEs are often asked to provide mentorship for apprentices whose liability is accepted by privately Licensed Businesses



Continuing Education (CE) required to remain a current Inspector QE

- All Levels of Inspector QEs must complete 18 hours of SSTS CE every 3 years
 - 6 hours must be Soils CE that is offered only when the ground is *not* frozen (~ June - October)
 - 9 of the 18 hours may be Related Hours
 - ✓ Related to SSTS but not found directly in the SSTS Rules
 - 2013 Time & Cost Estimate: 3 days - \$450

Summary

- The SSTS Program offers 9 different Specialty Areas that are based on the type of work completed by the professional
- All professionals must be Certified, but only private work must be done under the liability of an SSTS Business License
- A Qualified Employee is a Certified Professional who is employed by a Government Agency in charge of the local septic ordinance
- Training, Examination, Apprenticeship & Continuing Education are required to become a Certified Inspector QE
- Government Agencies must budget for the cost and time required to obtain and maintain a QE's Certification