



# DEP FACT SHEET

## Overboard Discharge System Abandonment Procedures and Abandonment Certification

Created: March 2004  
Updated: October 2010

Contact: (207) 287-3901

### What is an overboard discharge?

*Overboard discharges: licenses and abandonment* 06-096 CMR 596(8) (effective September 13, 2003) contains specific requirements for the proper abandonment of OBD treatment systems.

### How do I abandon an overboard discharge system?

When an overboard discharge treatment system is no longer necessary or is replaced by an alternative treatment system, it must be properly abandoned within 90 days following successful installation of an alternative or abandonment of use as follows.

Wastewater remaining in the system must be discharged in accordance with the active or most recently expired license or permit or removed and disposed at a facility authorized by the Department to receive such wastes. The property owner must also perform the following, as applicable. Please check the appropriate boxes to indicate the task has been completed.

#### A. Mechanical OBDs.

- Mechanical treatment systems must be aerated until 24 hours before they are emptied. After the contents have settled, the supernatant liquid may be discharged through the chlorinator at a rate that does not exceed the design capacity of the chlorinator or the chlorine detention tanks. Wastewater containing settled solids may not be discharged to the water.
- The contents of the chlorinator may be emptied to the water no sooner than 30 minutes after last receiving wastewater. Any solids contained in the chlorinator may not be discharged to the water.
- Any tanks that contain untreated or primary treated wastewater, including but not limited to septic tanks and grease traps, may not be discharged directly or indirectly to the water.

#### B. Sandfilters.

- If the abandoned treatment system is a sandfilter with a capacity of less than 1,000 gallons per day, the chlorine contact tank must be removed and the hole filled with crushed gravel to serve as a dry well.
- If the capacity of the sandfilter is 1,000 gallons per day or greater, the down-gradient end of the sand filter must be excavated and the liner punctured sufficiently to allow rain water to drain.

#### C. All OBDs.

- All tanks including but not limited to, grease traps, septic tanks, mechanical treatment systems, pump stations and chlorinator tanks that are not utilized as part of an alternative method of waste water disposal must be disconnected and filled with soil or removed.
- Any exposed portion of the final effluent line must be removed and the remaining effluent pipe permanently sealed.
- The licensee must notify the Department of the abandonment of an OBD or installation of an alternative wastewater disposal system at least five (5) working days before commencing work. Written notification may be sent to the following address or you may call or e-mail OBD staff using the contact information below.

Overboard Discharge Program  
OBD Abandonment  
Department of Environmental Protection  
State House Station 17  
Augusta, ME 04333-0017  
Bill Hinkel [bill.hinkel@maine.gov](mailto:bill.hinkel@maine.gov) 207-485-2281  
Irene Saumur [irene.saumur@maine.gov](mailto:irene.saumur@maine.gov) 207-485-2404

Once the OBD has been properly abandoned, complete this form, including the certification statement below, and mail to the Augusta DEP address provided above.

**I certify under penalty of law that I am familiar with and understand the statutory requirements, CMR 06-096**

**596(8) (see below), for proper abandonment of overboard discharge systems as outlined above. I further**

**certify that the OBD system associated with Waste Discharge License #W\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_,**  
(license number) (municipality)

**Maine and located on property now or formerly owned by \_\_\_\_\_ was**  
(licensee)

**removed accordingly on \_\_\_\_\_ (date removed). I am aware there are significant penalties for improper abandonment, removal and disposal of overboard discharge systems and their contents, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment.**

\*Contractor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contractor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contractor's Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Alternatively, the signature may be the supervising authority such as a town official (usually the Local Plumbing Inspector or Code Enforcement Officer) or supervising representative from the sewer district.

06-096 CMR 596(8):

**8. Abandonment of Overboard Discharge Systems.** When an overboard discharge treatment system is not longer necessary or is replaced by an alternative treatment system, it must be properly abandoned within 90 days as follows.

**A. Residual Wastewater.** Wastewater remaining in the system must be discharged in accordance with the active or most recently expired license or permit or removed and disposed at a facility authorized by the Department to receive such wastes. The property owner must also perform the following, as applicable.

- (1) Mechanical treatment systems must be aerated until 24 hours before they are emptied. After the contents have settled, the supernatant liquid may be discharged through the chlorinator at a rate that does not exceed the design capacity of the chlorinator or the chlorine detention tanks. Wastewater containing settled solids may not be discharged to the water.
- (2) The contents of the chlorinator may be emptied to the water no sooner than 30 minutes after last receiving wastewater. Any solids contained in the chlorinator may not be discharged to the water.
- (3) Any tanks that contain untreated or primary treated wastewater, including but not limited to septic tanks and grease traps, may not be discharged directly or indirectly to the water.

**B. Sand Filters.** If the abandoned treatment system is a sand filter with a capacity of less than 1000 gallons per day, the chlorine contact tank must be removed and the hole filled with crushed gravel to serve as a dry well. If the capacity of the sand filter is 1000 gallons per day or greater, the downgradient end of the sand filter must be excavated and the liner punctured sufficiently to allow rain water to drain.

**C. Tanks.** All tanks including but not limited to, grease traps, septic tanks, mechanical treatment systems, pump stations and chlorinator tanks that are not utilized as part of an alternative method of waste water disposal must be disconnected and filled with soil or removed.

**D. Effluent Pipe.** Any exposed portion of the final effluent line must be removed and the remaining effluent pipe permanently sealed.

**E. Notification.** The licensee must notify the Department in accordance with Section 6 (G) of this chapter.