



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Title 5 Permitting

# Installation of Alternative Systems

- BRP WP 57**      **Approval of Installation of Recirculating Sand Filter (RSF) or Approved Equivalent Technology**
- BRP WP 64b**    **Approval of Installation of an Alternative System for Piloting**
- BRP WP 64c**    **Approval of Installation of an Alternative System for Remedial Use**

## Instructions and Supporting Materials

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### Introduction

MassDEP *Permit Applications*, as well as *Instructions & Support Materials*, are available for download from the MassDEP Web site at [mass.gov/dep](http://mass.gov/dep) in two file formats: Microsoft Word™ and Adobe Acrobat PDF™.

*Instructions & Support Materials* provide guidance on how to prepare a permit application.

These *Permit Applications*, supporting documents, and the fee payment (if applicable) must now be submitted through the [ePLACE Portal](#). See ePLACE step-by-step instructions on the [mass.gov](http://mass.gov) page for this application.



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## Permit Fact Sheet

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### 1. What is the purpose of these approvals?

The purpose of these approvals, except tight tank approval, is to ensure that alternative Title 5 systems, which have substitute or alternative components for one or more elements of a conventional septic system, can provide the same or a higher degree of environmental and public health protection as a conventional system.

- **BRP WP 57** establishes an approval process for MassDEP review of proposed installation of Recirculating Sand Filters (RSFs) where nitrogen reduction is required by 310 CMR 15.214 to serve new construction *or* proposed installation of RSFs for remedial use to serve facilities with design flows of 2,000 gallons per day or greater.
- **BRP WP 64b** establishes an approval process for MassDEP review of alternative systems proposed for piloting on a specific site. Piloting is intended to demonstrate that the technology proposed is likely to provide a level of environmental protection at least equal to that of a system designed and built in accordance with Title 5.
- **BRP WP 64c** establishes an approval process for MassDEP review of alternative systems proposed for remedial use on a specific site. A Remedial Use approval is intended to demonstrate that the alternative system is likely to improve conditions at an existing facility served by a failed, failing or nonconforming system.

### 2. Who must apply?

#### For BRP WP 57:

Any individual, business or organization desiring to install a recirculating sand filter in accordance with 310 CMR 15.202, 310 CMR 15.214, and the Department's Approval for Remedial Use for RSFs.

#### For BRP WP 64b:

Any individual, business or organization desiring to install an alternative system for piloting, in accordance with 310 CMR 15.003 and 310 CMR 15.285.

#### For BRP WP 64c:

Any individual, business or organization desiring to install an alternative system for Remedial Use that is required to obtain prior MassDEP approval, in accordance with 310 CMR 15.003 and 310 CMR 15.284.

Note: If these categories do not apply to you, please be advised these are not the only categories for discharges to the ground. Please consult regulations 310 CMR 4.00 and the Department of Environmental Protection Regulations (314 CMR 5.00-6.00) to determine whether another category may apply to you.



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#### 3. What other requirements should be considered when applying for these approvals?

- Applicants must obtain approval from the local approving authority prior to submitting an application to MassDEP, and include a copy of the approval in their application to MassDEP.
- Any proposed variances must be included in the application, including any approval from a local approving authority, or separate variance application under BRP WP 59b or 59c that will be necessary.

**Note:** These additional requirements are intended to serve as a guide to the applicant. They do not necessarily include all additional requirements.

#### 4. What is the application fee?

For BRP WP 57, 64b and 64c the application fee is \$525.

#### 5. Where should the application be sent?

The application must be submitted through ePLACE, located here: <https://eplace.eea.mass.gov/citizenaccess>

Additional visual ePLACE step-by-step instructions to assist in submitting your application are available at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/wp-57-64b-64c-title-5-alternative-systems-installations>

- Log into the ePLACE Portal at: <https://eplace.eea.mass.gov/citizenaccess> and create an account.
- Once logged in, click on the large blue button on the right, "File an Online Application".
- Read and agree to the disclaimer. Click "Continue".
- To find this application, click on "Apply for DEP Authorization – Water Pollution Wastewater (WP)", and check on WP 57 or WP 64b or WP 64c, and click "Continue Application".
- Follow instructions on each screen and click "Continue Application" to move to the next step. The WP 57/64b/64c application and supporting forms are to be completed in MS Word™ or Acrobat Adobe PDF™ and attached in the Documents section.
- Note that you can return to an application provided you select "Save and Return Later". Once you submit an application you can no longer upload documents without approval from MassDEP personnel.
- At the end of the application steps, the ePLACE system will take you directly to a screen where you can pay the fee, if applicable. Complete payment information in ePLACE.
- Once an application has been submitted, you will receive an email that will provide you the record number.
- From the "My Records" button, you will be able to view the status of your application through the review and approval processes.



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#### Important Contacts

- For technical assistance regarding online filing, contact the ePLACE Help Desk Team at (844) 733-7522 or [ePLACE\\_helpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:ePLACE_helpdesk@mass.gov).
- To see a copy of your application after submittal, also see: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp>.

#### 6. Where can I get a copy of the timelines?

The timelines are available on the MassDEP Website:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-permitting-assistance#fees-timelines>

#### 7. What is the annual compliance fee?

There is no compliance fee for this category.

#### 8. How long are these approvals valid?

The system must be built within three years of the date of issuance of the Disposal System Construction Permit. Provided that the system is installed within three years, the BRP WP 57, BRP WP 64 b, and BRP WP 64 c approvals remain valid as long as the system and facility served remain unchanged. The Department may issue a written one-year extension. Only one extension may be granted.

#### 9. How can I avoid the most common mistakes made in applying for these approvals?

- a. Review the application for completeness to be sure all questions are answered correctly.
- b. Include copies of plans and specifications are complete and signed and stamped by a Massachusetts Registered Sanitarian or Professional Engineer, whichever is appropriate.
- c. Submit the application & documents listed above and pay fee through ePLACE, <https://eplace.eea.mass.gov/citizenaccess>.

#### 10. What are the regulations that apply to variances? Where can I get copies?

These regulations include, but are not limited to:

- Timely Action Schedule and Fee Provisions, 310 CMR 4.00.
- Title 5 Regulations, 310 CMR 15.000;
- Sections 15.202 and 15.214 BRP WP 57
- Sections 15.280 – 15.289, BRP WP 64b
- Sections 15.280 – 15.289, BRP WP 64c

These may be purchased at:



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### **Permit Fact Sheet**

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State House Bookstore  
Room 116  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-727-2834

State Bookstore  
436 Dwight Street, Room 102  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-784-1376



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## Application Completeness Checklist

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- Complete the Title 5 Permit Application Form. Provide all specified information and documents, including:

Identification of the type of MassDEP approval being sought:

- RSF or approved equivalent technology (BRP WP 57), or
- Alternative: Pilot Use (BRP WP 64b), or
- Alternative: Remedial Use (BRP WP 64c)

- Name, address, telephone, and fax number and e-mail of applicant.
- Identification of legal ownership for the facility.
- Address of the facility.
- Name, company, address, and fax number, e-mail, and registration number of designer.
- Applicant's signature, date, and name of preparer.

System Information including:

- System description.
- Alternative design standards.
- Include plans and specifications signed and stamped by a MA registered Professional Engineer or Sanitarian, as appropriate.
- Written approval from the local approving authority.
- Data demonstrating that equivalent environmental protection is achievable.
- Documentation identifying the system failure **(BRP WP 64c only)**.
- Sampling and monitoring plan **(BRP WP 64b only)**.
- Provisions of Title 5 for which a variance is sought and local approving authority approval of variances.



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### Application Completeness Checklist

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To submit the application package:

- Submit the application and documents listed above through ePLACE, <https://eplace.eea.mass.gov/citizenaccess>
- Pay fee: \$525 (if applicable).

You can pay online in ePLACE or pay by mail in the form of a check or money order made payable to *Commonwealth of Massachusetts* (please follow email instructions provided to you once your application is submitted).