

## SEPTIC TANK REGULATIONS 2020

*If you have a septic tank you need to read this*

As part of ongoing efforts to improve water quality and reduce pollution the Government has introduced new rules that simplify the way septic tanks and small sewerage treatment plans are regulated in England.

In its simplest form people including School Governors who own properties with septic tanks and small sewerage treatment plants are responsible for meeting the new legal requirements by ensuring that their systems are maintained properly and do not cause pollution. These changes must be made by the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Most people will not know whether their systems comply with the new regulations or not. Failure to comply can result in heavy fines.

To ensure that School Governors are compliant it is recommended that all schools with septic tanks have them checked: first to see if they comply with the new rules and secondly if they don't, to provide details of what changes are required. If changes are required, it is not an option to put this off and it is anticipated that schools will be supported with funding to make the necessary changes. Voluntary aided schools will be prioritised for LCVAP funding to meet the new regulations.

DBE Services can offer a survey of the tank and subsequent report and guidance for £695 plus VAT. If the report shows that changes are needed, we are able to manage the process to ensure that schools remain compliant. Our inspection will include:

- Visit to the premises, locate the tank and associated services
- Inspect the Controls, size of tank and other issues to confirm compliance or otherwise
- Clean out the drain immediately serving the tank and any outfall
- Instigate a camera inspection
- Make appropriate recommendations to allow any changes to be tendered

For VA schools we will also liaise with the local Diocese to keep them informed help secure funding and commissioning of any remedial work which may be required.

If you would like us to carry out a survey, please contact [peter@dbeservices.co.uk](mailto:peter@dbeservices.co.uk)

We can offer this service to any school or any organisation. We anticipate that for community schools and voluntary controlled schools Local Authorities will provide this service however if they are not offering it, we are happy to provide it to any school or academy chain. We are also happy to provide it to Churches or individuals should they need it.

Details and further discussions can be had with Peter.

Further information available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-bining-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-the-ground>