

BCOSSA Technical Review Committee Technical Bulletin

Title: Application of the SPM V2 by ROWPs

Subject:

Provides a brief guideline for the application of the SPM V2 by ROWPs.

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Introduction

The SPM V2 revision included reorganization of the manual contents to clarify application by Professionals and ROWPs, and to clearly separate critical standards.

However, the revision also included wording changes to better reflect the *Sewerage System Regulation* in terms of the SPM's status as a guidance document rather than a prescriptive document.

This has led to some questions on application of the manual by ROWPs. This document is intended to clarify these issues.

Section 1.1 of the bulletin provides a summary table for quick reference, with explanatory notes in Section 2.

1.1 Summary Table for use of the SPM V2 by ROWPs

SPM Part	SPM Section	ROWP application notes
All		ROWPs are to follow the manual (per ASTTBC policy). Including any process in the manual for deviations.
All	Where professional specifically recommended by the manual	ROWPs must seek professional design or design review by a professional. See “Flags for Consulting a Qualified Professional” TRC Technical Bulletin TB3.
Part 1	1.2.1.1 Standards	Instructions for application of the manual by APs. Includes instructions for deviation.
Part 1	1.2.9 Repairs and replacements	ROWPs may deviate from the manual, including Part 2 standards. Deviation from Table 2-6 requires professional in all cases. Deviate only to the extent necessary, do not create a health hazard, and include rationale and documentation.
Part 2	Critical standards part of the manual	ROWPs not to deviate from Part 2 critical standards.
	Table 2-7 Other Horizontal Setbacks	ROWPs may deviate from these non critical standards. Follow process in manual.
	Linked standards	If using the standard in Part 2 APs must also use the standards in Part 3 where linked. Including: Sand mounds/sand lined trenches, lagoons.
Part 3	3.3 Minimum Design, Installation, Maintenance and Monitoring Standards	ROWPs must meet these minimum standards. May exceed the standards.
	Technologies (Sections 3.5 to end)	ROWPs may deviate. Must follow the process for deviation in the manual (SPM Section 3.1).

AP is “Authorized Person” (ROWP or professional).

2.1 SPM Part 1 guidance

Section 1.2.1.1 clarifies the application of critical and significant standards in the SPM, and indicates that the critical standards of Part 2 of the manual should only be deviated from by a Professional (with instructions on how this may be done). Further, Section 1.2.1.1 indicates that an ROWP may deviate from the Significant standards and guidelines of Part 3 of the SPM, but only if:

“...*any deviation* from *any* of these significant standards:

- be supported by reference to authoritative sources relevant to the climate and soil of the areas in which the system will be used; and
- be made only with the AP’s assurance that the resulting system will function within the environment at an equal or better performance level as would have been provided by the SPM standard or guideline.”

Section 1.2.1.1 also states that the manual explicitly identifies situations where a Professional is needed as well as situations where deviation from Part 3 would require a professional.

The BCOSSA Technical Review Committee has prepared a Technical Bulletin (TB3, Flags for Consulting a Qualified Professional) which provides a single point reference to those situations where a professional should be involved.

Section 1.2.9 provides guidance for ROWPs and Professionals in repair and replacement situations. It also makes it clear that deviation from a critical minimum horizontal separation (Table 2-6) of Part 2 of the SPM should only be made by a professional.

2.2 SPM Part 2 guidance

ROWPs should not deviate from the critical standards of Part 2 of the SPM, and must in such case seek professional assistance as directed by the manual. Where the manual states “should” or “highly recommended” the ROWP is mandated to follow these instructions.

2.2.1 Table 2-7

Table 2-7 (Horizontal Setback Distances for other setbacks) is an exception, as these standards are identified by the manual as non critical in nature, and the preamble to the table provides the following guidance:

“Authorized Persons should only deviate from setbacks presented in Table 2-7 where the reduction will not contribute to the creation of a health hazard. It is also recommended that performance standards should still be met if a departure occurs.”

This means that an ROWP may deviate from the standards of Table 2-7, as long as the deviation meets these requirements.

2.2.2 Linked standards

In certain cases a standard is made up of linked steps that should be followed in order to properly meet the overall recommended standard.

For example, when the SPM states that the HLR tables “must” or “should” be used with the SPM Daily Design Flows, it is making it clear that if these steps are not linked malfunction of the system may result. Therefore where a standard is identified as linked in the manual; all standards must be followed by the ROWP.

2.2.2.1 LINKED STANDARDS, LINKED FROM PART 2 TO PART 3

Note that if applying linked standards from Part 2 which link to standards in Part 3 (for instance, sand mound or sand lined trench system) the standards of Part 3 for the specific technology (in the example, Section 3.8) must be followed by the ROWP. To deviate from those standards would be equivalent to deviating from the Part 2 critical standards.

Where a “critical standard” in Part 2 is comprised of linked steps (and includes linkage to the “significant standards” of Part 3), Part 2 will indicate this.

2.3 *Part 3 Standards*

Part 3 includes both standards and guidelines. An ROWP may deviate from the standards or guidelines only if this deviation follows the process outlined in SPM Section 3.1:

“... *any deviation* from *any* of these significant standards:

- be supported by reference to authoritative sources relevant to the climate and soil of the areas in which the system will be used; and
- be made only with the AP’s assurance that the resulting system will function within the environment at an equal or better performance level as would have been provided by the SPM standard or guideline.

It is also recommended that wherever *explicitly identified in Part 3* of the SPM, deviation from the Part 3 significant standards or guidelines should only be made by an AP that meets specific qualifications (e.g., *is a professional*, groundwater hydrologist, etc.)”

See note above on Part 2 to Part 3 linked standards.

Section 3.3 provides Minimum Design, Installation, Maintenance and Monitoring Standards. These must be followed by the ROWP.