



Rick Scott  
Governor

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State Surgeon General

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**INFORMATION  
HSES 12-003**

**DATE:** February 29, 2012  
**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators  
ATTN: Environmental Health and Engineering Directors  
**THROUGH:** Keith Keene, CEHP, Interim Director  
Division of Environmental Health  
**FROM:**   
Gerald Briggs, Chief,  
Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs  
**SUBJECT:** Maintenance and Repair of ATU Systems and PBTS

**INFORMATION ONLY**

This memo serves to clarify rule language regarding performance of maintenance and repairs to aerobic treatment unit (ATU) systems and performance based treatment systems (PBTS). Servicing and repair of an ATU requires that a maintenance entity fulfill certain requirements as specified in rule 64E-6.012(4), FAC, as quoted below (emphasis added):

*"...No aerobic treatment unit shall be serviced or repaired by a person or entity engaged in an aerobic treatment unit maintenance service until the service entity has obtained an annual written permit issued on Form DH 4013 from the DOH county health department in the county where the service company is located. Each service entity shall employ at least one plumbing contractor licensed under Section 489.105(3)(m), F.S., septic tank contractor registered under Part III of Chapter 489, F.S., or a state-licensed wastewater treatment plant operator, **who is responsible for maintenance and repair of all systems under contract.** Application for a Maintenance Service Permit, Form DH 4066, 02/10, herein incorporated by reference, shall be made to the DOH county health department and shall contain the following information..."*

Both a maintenance contract and an operating permit specifying the Maintenance Entity (ME) responsible for all maintenance and repair of the system under contract are required for each Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU) system. Only the specific authorized, permitted, and contracted Maintenance Entity listed in the operating permit, and which has a maintenance contract with the property owner can maintain or repair the system. This includes the treatment unit and the drainfield. The entity specified is responsible for all maintenance and repair of the system under contract. While a property owner is free to change their maintenance entity at any time, they must first cancel their existing contract and notify the county health department of the change. The new maintenance entity then needs to amend the operating permit to reflect that change. The contracted maintenance entity may subcontract services they cannot provide to another approved maintenance entity, such as pump outs or emergency service.

Similar provisions apply to the maintenance and repair of PBTS.

Please provide a copy of this memorandum to contractors working in your county. If you have any questions please contact your regional program consultant.



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