

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



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**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM****DCEH 15-007**

**DATE:** September 22, 2015

**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators  
ATTN: Environmental Health and Engineering Directors

**THROUGH:** Andrew Reich, MS, MSPH, RRT, Interim Chief  
Bureau of Environmental Health 

**FROM:** Ed Barranco, MPH, CEHP, CPM, Environmental Administrator  
Bureau of Environmental Health Onsite Sewage Program

**SUBJECT:** Riser Standards for Repair Situations

**INFORMATION ONLY**

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We recently received a question asking if risers were required during a repair where the existing tank is deeper than eight inches below grade. The regulatory requirements for "manhole accessibility" have varied over the years. Language in the February 11, 1940 version of the Sanitary Code of Florida states that where a tank has more than 12" of fill over it that the manholes should extend to the top of the ground. The language did not stay consistent since that time.

The "modern" riser language was first implemented as of March 17, 1992, with the actual language having been slightly modified in the current rule. As such, after review of previous regulations and in order to provide consistency regarding this topic we are providing the following guidance.

Tanks installed prior to March 17, 1992 will not be required to have risers when the tank lid is deeper than eight inches from finished grade.

Tanks installed as of March 17, 1992 must meet the current standard for access manholes of the tank being within eight inches of finished grade. If deeper than eight inches, risers are required in conformance with the current regulations, or the appropriate amount of soil may be removed. Please note that the removal of soil from over the manhole itself, leaving a depression in the sod/soil, where it can be filled in at a later time is not compliant.

Please note that where the choice is made to install risers on a tank originally installed prior to March 17, 1992, current riser construction standards must be met.

Please direct any questions to your program consultant.

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**Florida Department of Health**

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