

CHAPTER 888

Specifications

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CROSS REFERENCES

Private sewer systems - see ORC 6112
Drainage and building sewer system generally - see OAC 4101:2-51-41
Sewer trenches - see OAC 4101:2-51-411
Use of existing leaching pits - see EHC 848.02
Use of original effluent discharge point - see EHC 848.03
Dangerous or unsanitary systems; condemnation - see EHC 848.05

EHC Environmental Health Code **ORC** Ohio Revised Code **OAC** Ohio Administrative Code

The Health District specifications set minimum standards for design and installation. Property owners and their household sewage treatment system (HSTS) installers are encouraged to discuss and may propose a larger capacity system or alternative design for consideration. The following components and design considerations are not required but have been shown to improve system performance:

- (a) Pressure or flood dosing of effluent in measured and timed doses to filter beds, tile fields, leach beds, or evapotranspiration trenches more evenly distributes effluent and promotes resting between doses which better allows air to reenter the treatment area so that the system may function most effectively in treating the wastewater and in prolonging the functional life of the HSTS.
- (b) Soil absorption/dissipation systems have been found to function most effectively when the effluent entering the system has been pretreated to reduce suspended solids and biological oxygen demand and has a relatively high dissolved oxygen content. Aerobic treatment units and filter beds aid in this process.
- (c) Many new system designs are required to have alternating components, such as filter beds, leaching tile fields, leaching beds, and/or evapotranspiration fields. Unexpired disposal plans approved prior to the date of this rule and certain repair systems may not specifically require alternating fields, however, the property

owner and installer are encouraged to consider such alternating designs to extend the life and improve the function of the HSTS.

- (d) Water saving, low flow plumbing fixtures are typically required by plumbing codes for new home construction. Garbage grinders and water hungry devices such as garden/jacuzzi tubs and hot tubs are strongly discouraged for a household served by HSTS. Property owners of existing homes are encouraged to make the investment in converting to water saving fixtures when upgrading the HSTS.

SOIL TREATMENT COMPONENTS

All soil absorption areas are to be designed at minimum to meeting the sizing criteria of the Tyler Table found in Appendix A.

888.01 TANKS, PUMPS AND CONTROLS.

This rule addresses the STS components of tanks, pumps, and controls, including dosing provisions and electrical requirements. The purpose of the rule is to assure that tanks are watertight and structurally sound with adequate capacity, and to assure that tanks, pumps, and controls are selected, installed and maintained to meet intended performance over time.

- (A) Tanks subject to this chapter shall be manufactured to be watertight and structurally sound including septic tanks, other treatment component tanks, dosing tanks, pump vaults, HSTS holding tanks and privy vaults, or other applicable STS components.
- (1) The board of health may require watertight testing of any STS component.
 - (2) Tank connections shall comply with the following specifications:
 - (a) Joint connections shall be watertight. Any joint sealants for concrete riser connections and tank seams shall be of a butyl rubber blend meeting material, manufacture, and physical requirements specifications of ASTM C 990.
 - (b) Inlet and outlet pipe connections to a tank shall be watertight. Connectors shall be provided by the tank manufacturer and shall meet material and manufacture specifications of ASTM C 923.
 - (3) The board of health may request manufacturer verification that any STS component is structurally sound. The structural integrity of an STS component may be demonstrated through the manufacturer's provision of component design information verifying structural capacity for expected loads and conditions as certified by a professional engineer or through structural tests conducted in accordance with recognized standards for the component or component materials.
- (B) Septic tanks used in an STS shall comply with the following requirements and specifications:
- (1) Minimum liquid capacities:
 - (a) One to two bedrooms – one thousand gallons
 - (b) Three bedrooms – one thousand five hundred gallons in two tanks or compartments

- (c) Four to five bedrooms – two thousand gallons in two tanks or compartments
- (d) Six or more bedrooms – one thousand gallons plus an additional 250 gallons for each bedroom in two tanks or compartments
- (e) SFOSTS – one thousand gallons minimum in two tanks or compartments with at least two and half times the daily design flow

In two compartment tanks, the first compartment shall not be less than one half or more than two-thirds of the total capacity of the septic tank and the transfer port in the center wall shall ensure transfer of liquid from the clear zone only. When using two tanks, the septic tanks shall be connected in series, and if differing in size, the first tank in the series shall be the larger of the two.

- (2) The invert level of the inlet shall be not less than two inches above the liquid level of the tank. A vented inlet baffle or tee shall be fitted by the tank manufacturer to divert the incoming sewage downward and shall penetrate at least six inches below the liquid level but shall not be greater than that for the outlet device.
- (3) Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, the outlet shall be fitted by the tank manufacturer with a vented tee or baffle that shall extend not less than six inches above and not less than eighteen inches below the liquid level of the tank, and shall include an effluent filter device that retains solids greater than one sixteenth of an inch in size.
- (4) The septic tank shall have a liquid drawing depth of not less than four feet and the air gap between the liquid level and internal surface of the top of the tank shall be at least nine inches. An alternative means of compliance with this paragraph includes an air gap of at least fifteen percent of the liquid capacity by volume with the outlet baffle depth required in paragraph (C)(3) of this rule adjusted as needed to access the middle of the clear zone.
- (5) The septic tank access openings shall be located above the inlet and outlet of the tank and shall allow adequate space for pumping of the tank and inspection and maintenance. An access opening and cover shall be provided above the compartment wall in a two compartment tank unless the transfer port in the center wall is a pass through opening that allows a shared liquid level in both compartments. The cover or riser lid shall weigh a minimum of sixty-five pounds or be secured against unauthorized access.
- (6) The tank shall be installed with a minimum of two watertight risers extended to grade or above grade to provide access to the inlet and outlet of the tank. The connection of the riser to the tank and the connection of additional riser sections shall incorporate joint grooves or adapters to prevent lateral movement of the riser. Riser lids shall prevent infiltration of water and have secured covers.

(C) Dosing tanks shall be designed and manufactured in accordance with the following:

- (1) Dosing tanks shall be easily accessible and have secured covers. All connections shall comply with applicable specifications under paragraphs (A)(2)(a) and (A)(2)(b) of this rule.
- (2) Dosing tanks shall be selected to accommodate the volume below maximum drawdown, the maximum design dose including any drain back, and the design portion of the reserve and surge capacities as applicable. The STS design shall provide a reserve capacity for high water alarm events that is not

less than the daily design flow. If time dosed, the STS design shall accommodate combined reserve and surge capacities of not less than one hundred and fifty per cent of the daily design flow.

- (3) A septic tank second compartment or a second septic tank in series may be used for low volume dosing if all conditions under paragraph (D)(2) of this rule are met and a filtered step system or screened vault is used in lieu of, or in addition to, the effluent filter device required under paragraph (C)(3) of this rule.

(D) Pumps shall meet the following specifications:

- (1) A pump shall be rated for effluent service by the manufacturer and be a UL or CSA listed product.
- (2) The pump shall be properly sized to meet the design flow rate and total dynamic head requirements specified for the STS.
- (3) A quick disconnect shall be accessible in the pump discharge piping, with adequate lift attachments provided for removal and replacement of the pump and water level control assembly without having to either enter the dosing tank or pump the tank to lower the liquid level.

(E) A dosing siphon may only be used if the STS design requirements, including the design flow rate, dose capacity, and any pressure distribution parameters, can be met and maintained.

(F) Switches, controls, alarms, and electrical components shall be UL or CSA listed products, shall be installed in a manner easily accessible for routine monitoring and maintenance, and shall comply with the following:

- (1) Switches and controls shall accommodate the minimum and maximum dose capacities of the specified distribution component.
- (2) An elapsed time meter, counter, and/or flow meter shall be included in those STS having any dosing component. Time dosed STS shall include flow meters, counters, and control panels with programmable timers, manual pump operation, test features, and as applicable, adjustable override settings for high water alarm conditions.
- (3) Controls shall have both audible and visual alarms. Alarms and controls shall be on a separate frequently used circuit from dedicated circuits for each pump or motor. The board of health may require that the alarm be located in closer proximity to the dwelling or structure when the STS location is remote.
- (4) Control panels and alarms shall be mounted in an easily accessible exterior location, shall be field-tested to assure compliance with the STS specifications, and shall include written instructions related to standard operation and alarm events.

(G) The installer shall assure that all electrical wiring meets the national electric code.

(H) STS components described in this rule shall be installed, operated and maintained as specified by the manufacturer or the approved plan.

888.02 LEACHING TILE FIELD SYSTEMS.

Leaching tile field systems, where approved, shall meet the following criteria:

- (a) The tile field shall be divided into two equal sections and provided with a diversion device equipped to provide alternate flow to each section of the field unless the tile field is preceded by an approved pretreatment unit to reduce BOD/TSS. If split, the minimum size of each half of the tile field shall be determined by the Tyler Table, Appendix A. and.
- (b) All distribution boxes, inspection ports and drop boxes shall be brought to grade and provided with secure covers. The minimum inside dimension of the distribution box shall be twelve inches in diameter, if round, or twelve inches per side, if square.
- (c) Leaching tile field trench stone shall be washed gravel three quarters of an inch to one and one-half inches in size with a minimum of two inches of clean stone beneath the tile and two inches of clean stone above the tile and a minimum width of twelve inches wide; other material may be used if approved by the Ohio Department of Health and with site specific approval by the Health Commissioner. The tile field infiltrative surface may not be any deeper than thirty inches, unless special design consideration has been approved. The six inch top soil layer must be separated from the stone by a two-inch layer of straw or an approved artificial barrier.
- (d) The trunk line joints shall be glued. Distribution lines are to be constructed of perforated pipe of an approved material with self-aligned joints. Perforations are to be one-half inch in diameter.
- (e) Where leaching tile fields are installed on sloping land, they shall be installed in such a manner that the upper lines are utilized before effluent spills over to the subsequently next lower distribution line. Each level of distribution line shall have a separate drop box installed in series.
- (f) The minimum distance between any leaching lines shall be six feet.
- (g) The minimum distance between any leaching line and any drain line located on the lot shall be eight feet.
- (h) A leaching line shall have a minimum length as determined by the soil conditions and the Tyler Table listed in Appendix A.
- (i) A leaching line shall have a minimum diameter of four inches and shall have a relatively level grade. The grade shall not exceed a fall of three inches in fifty feet.
- (j) The land surface shall be graded so as to exclude surface drainage from the HSTS site.
- (k) During construction of the leaching tile field, care must be taken to protect all natural infiltrative soil surfaces from damage due to compaction, smearing, or infiltration of silt or other fine material.

888.04 SUBSURFACE SAND FILTERS.

- (a) The total filter requirement shall be divided into two equal parts and provided with a diversion device to divide the flow to each portion of the filter.

- (b) Each section of the bed shall be provided with a distribution box from which each distribution line of the filter shall originate. Distribution boxes shall be brought full size to the finished grade and provided with secure covers.
- (c) The minimum filter area shall be 240 square feet per bedroom but in no case shall the filter area be less than 720 square feet.
- (d) Distribution lines are to be constructed of perforated pipe of an approved material with self-alignment joints. Perforations are to be one-half inch in diameter.
- (e) The distribution lines are to be at least four inches in diameter laid on an even grade of a maximum slope of three inches per fifty feet. The distribution lines are to be surrounded with twelve inches of clean coarse gravel three-fourths to one-half of an inch in size which covers the entire bed. They are to be laid on three-foot centers between lines and eighteen inches from the sidewalls of the filter.
- (f) The filtering media is to be a minimum of eighteen inches in depth and shall be of “approved filter sand” having an effective size of 0.4 to 1.0 mm with a uniformity coefficient less than 3.0 as determined by a sieve analysis.
- (g) The lower or collecting line is to be four-inch perforated pipe with self-alignment joints, laid the full length of the bed at a slope of not less than six inches in fifty feet.
- (h) The collecting line is to be surrounded with twelve inches of clean gravel, three quarters of an inch to one and one-half inches in size, which underlies the entire bed.
- (i) The top of the filter is to be covered with a two-inch layer of approved artificial barrier, hay, straw or similar material before being covered with the earth backfill.
- (j) The backfill cover is not to exceed twenty-four inches and should be of a porous material such as topsoil. Grading of the final land surface shall be such as to divert water away from the filter.
- (k) The base of the filter bed shall not be installed below the perched seasonal water table.
- (l) Sand filters are not approved for off-lot discharge of effluent.

888.05 CURTAIN DRAINS, INTERCEPTOR DRAINS.

- (a) Curtain or perimeter drains are intended for use to intercept and divert surface water and shallow ground water in order to improve the performance of soil treatment components.
- (b) A curtain drain system shall consist of conductor tile of an approved material.
- (c) The curtain drain shall be at least eight feet from the edge of the leaching tile field or other treatment unit components and at least six inches below the leaching trench bottom. The curtain drain must be installed at least five feet from property lines.
- (d) To accommodate a curtain drain, a trench shall be of sufficient width to assure accurate drainage and grade control.

- (e) Curtain drain tile shall rest on natural soil on the bottom of the trench and shall be covered with washed gravel three-quarters of an inch to one and one-half inches in diameter to the final grade surface.
- (f) A curtain drain shall have an inspection well accessible from the surface of the ground and shall be provided with a secure cover. The well shall have a minimum inside diameter of eight inches and shall be on the discharge line adjacent to the leaching system unless an open out-fall is present on the property.
- (g) A curtain drain with an exposed outlet pipe shall be fitted with a vermin guard.

888.06 AEROBIC TREATMENT UNITS.

- (a) Where aerobic treatment units (ATU) are to be installed the ATU may be preceded by a septic tank if in compliance with the ATU manufacture's specifications.
- (b) When an ATU is to be utilized for an off-lot discharge, the unit shall be capable of meeting the NPDES discharge quality standards.
- (c) ATUs shall be approved by the sewage technical advisory committee (TAC) or meet or exceed current Standard Number 40 as adopted by the National Sanitation Foundation Board of Trustees or standards accepted as equivalent by the Ohio Department of Health relating to materials, design, construction, performance, operation, maintenance and safety of the system in effect at the time of acceptance of a system by the Ohio Department of Health, and the requirements of Rules 3701-29-01 through 3701-29-21 of the Ohio Sanitary Code.
- (d) ATUs shall be installed at grade or at a maximum of two feet below grade with risers installed on all access openings.
- (e) The aerobic equipment must operate twenty-four hours each day. Timers are not permitted, except where approved by the TAC.
- (f) Where a final effluent sample cannot easily be obtained from within the system, a sampling well immediately following the system shall be provided. It shall be installed as close as possible to the treatment system. The sampling well shall be a minimum of eight inches in diameter and shall be accessible from the surface of the ground, and shall be provided with a secured cover.
- (g) The system shall be sized on the basis of 120 gallons per day per bedroom.
- (h) The system shall not be installed where the estimated daily flow exceeds the rated capacity at which the system was tested and approved.
- (i) An aerobic treatment unit drain with an exposed outlet pipe shall be fitted with a vermin guard.

888.08 BUILDING SEWERS.

This rule addresses the flow and waste strength characteristics that will vary depending on the source of the sewage to be treated by an STS. Also considered in this rule are other conditions that may impact waste

strength and flows to a building sewer. All such conditions need to be identified and understood prior to considering the design of an STS.

- (A) The owner or owner's agent shall provide information on the sources of sewage from the dwelling or structures to be served by an STS for the board of health determination of compliance with this rule. The board of health may require submission of building and plumbing plans including plumbing fixture details and other information as needed.
- (B) The daily design flow estimate for an STS shall comply with the following general provisions unless otherwise specified in this chapter:
 - (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (B)(3) and (B)(4) of this rule, the daily design flow for an HSTS shall be a peak flow of one hundred twenty gallons per day per bedroom.
 - (2) The daily design flow for an SFOSTS shall be determined in accordance with the design flow table established by OEPA. For an SFOSTS with periodic large daily flows that are stored to avoid exceeding the one thousand gallon per day treatment limit, the peak daily design flow shall be greater than the average of the daily flows and no actual daily flow shall exceed three thousand five hundred gallons.
 - (3) An increase in the daily design flow estimate for an STS shall be required by the board of health when there is an indication that the flows established in accordance with paragraph (B)(1) or (B)(2) of this rule will be exceeded. Any required increase in daily design flow shall be documented on the installation permit and operation permit.
 - (4) A reduction in daily design flow may be approved by the board of health when the information submitted indicates conditions that justify reduced flow such as limited fixtures, waterless toilets, in-house graywater recycling, or other circumstances that may warrant a reduction in daily design flow. Justification for a proposed reduction in daily design flow shall be included in the site review application and, if approved, shall be documented on the installation permit and operation permit.
- (C) The waste strength estimate for an STS shall be determined for design purposes in accordance with the following general provisions unless otherwise specified in this chapter:
 - (1) Sewage generated by a dwelling served by an HSTS shall be judged to be typical residential sewage following primary treatment when the total suspended solids (TSS) content is not expected to exceed one hundred and fifty milligrams per liter (mg/L), the five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) is not expected to exceed two hundred and fifty milligrams per liter (mg/L), or the contents of fats, oils, and greases (FOG) is not expected to exceed twenty five milligrams per liter (mg/L). Consideration shall be given to eliminating the use of garbage disposals in kitchen sinks to assist in maintaining residential waste strength below these maximum levels and to reduce residuals and the frequency of septage removal.
 - (2) Any waste prohibited by UIC regulations for introduction into an SFOSTS shall be source separated and regulated by OEPA.
 - (3) When the waste strength for an STS is expected to exceed or has exceeded the typical residential waste strength described in paragraph (C)(1) of this rule:

- (a) The design plan shall include loading calculations using values in accordance with the loading table established by OEPA. Any variation from the loading table values shall be justified in the design plan including waste strength characterization information. Board of health approval for any reduction or increase in loading estimates shall be documented on the installation permit and operation permit.
 - (b) Additional pretreatment shall be provided to assure that the STS soil absorption component receives a waste strength within the range of typical residential sewage. The method of pretreatment to reduce waste strength shall be justified in the design plan, reviewed by the board of health for compliance with this chapter, and, if approved, shall be documented on the installation permit and operation permit.
 - (c) When an external grease interceptor is a component of the proposed pretreatment to reduce waste strength, the external grease interceptor shall be located, designed, and installed in a manner that will allow access for inspection and maintenance, including the following:
 - (i) A source segregated inlet line, when feasible;
 - (ii) Sized to account for flow volume and temperature; and
 - (iii) Watertight access risers extended to grade with secure covers.
- (D) Building sewers shall carry all sewage flow from the dwelling or structure, including graywater or other segregated sewage, and shall be connected to an STS in compliance with this chapter. Building sewers shall comply with the following:
- (1) The elevation of a building sewer shall be aligned to accommodate the plan elevations of the subsequent STS components and shall be properly bedded in native soil or sand at a uniform grade of not less than one per cent or one eighth of an inch per foot.
 - (2) A building sewer shall be a minimum of ten feet from any household water supply source and water service line, unless otherwise specified in applicable state or local regulations.
 - (3) A building sewer shall be watertight, have a minimum diameter of four inches and be constructed of durable material conforming to ASTM D 2661 for ABS plastic pipe or ASTM D 2665 for PVC plastic pipe (type DWV) or equivalent. Pipe, fittings, and joining materials shall be chemically and physically compatible.
 - (4) Cleanouts shall be required in a building sewer at any turn in the pipe greater than forty-five degrees and at the point a building sewer pipe exceeds one hundred feet and at every one hundred feet interval thereafter.
 - (5) A building sewer shall allow for proper venting of STS components. Traps shall not be installed in a building sewer.
 - (6) Casing or other form of protection shall be provided for any portion of a building sewer located in areas of vehicle traffic or when the building sewer is subject to other loads that may cause damage.

888.09 EFFLUENT QUALITY STANDARDS AND PRETREATMENT PROVISIONS.

Effluent quality standards are established through various means including NPDES permit requirements, provisions in this rule, and under risk conditions that may warrant nutrient reduction. This rule addresses secondary or higher quality effluent from a pretreatment component. The provisions of this rule relate to the pretreatment component approval process and the selection of pretreatment components in compliance with effluent quality standards established in this rule or NPDES permit requirements when applicable.

- (A) The following effluent quality standards are performance standards applied in advance of effluent distribution to a soil absorption component, excluding effluent generated from a septic tank or other means of primary treatment. Pretreatment components approved in compliance with this rule are deemed to comply as applicable for effluent quality standards in this paragraph and are not subject to routine sampling for performance monitoring.
- (1) BOD₅/TSS standard – Compliance with this standard requires that effluent meet the thirty-day average of less than thirty milligrams per liter (mg/L) for five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) and total suspended solids (TSS) to utilize STS sizing criteria addressed in paragraph (F)(1)(a) of Section 4.
 - (2) Fecal coliform standards – Compliance with the pathogen reduction standards listed below requires that effluent meet the thirty-day geometric mean of the standard to utilize the soil depth credits or other applicable provisions of Section 4.
 - (a) less than or equal to ten thousand colonies/one hundred mL allows for a one foot soil depth credit
 - (b) less than or equal to one thousand colonies/one hundred mL allows for a two foot soil depth credit
 - (3) Nutrient standards – Nutrient reduction standards for pretreatment components shall be established when there is a significant risk of nutrient contamination to surface or ground water due to risk factors identified in the site evaluation or risk due to proximity to local, state, or federally recognized nutrient sensitive environments.
- (B) Pretreatment components shall be designed to have effluent sampling capability at the endpoint of the treatment process prior to dispersal or discharge. In addition, pretreatment components combining separate treatment and disinfection units shall provide effluent sampling capability between the treatment and disinfection units. Disinfection units shall not discharge disinfection residuals to a soil absorption component.
- (C) Covers shall be secured and be easily accessible for monitoring and maintenance of the entire pretreatment component.
- (D) Pretreatment components that are housed in a septic tank second compartment or a second septic tank in series shall assure that the pretreatment component design, or the STS design which includes the pretreatment component, prevents passage of solids greater than one sixteenth of an inch in size.
- (E) Installation shall be conducted in a manner consistent with manufacturer or designer specifications to allow for proper O&M and monitoring of the pretreatment component. All pretreatment components shall have

written O&M instructions with time lines for service and the registered installer shall provide the O&M instructions to both the owner and the board of health as a condition of installation approval.

- (F) STS pretreatment components shall be operated, maintained, and monitored as necessary to assure compliance with any applicable effluent quality standards established in this rule or the final effluent limitations set forth in a valid NPDES permit for HSTS. Sampling of NPDES discharges shall be performed in accordance with the NPDES permit monitoring requirements.
- (G) To assure that a pretreatment component is operated and maintained in accordance with O&M instructions for the life of the component, as a condition of the operation permit the board of health shall require the STS owner to obtain and maintain a service contract for any pretreatment component or components permitted for BOD₅/TSS sizing reduction, pathogen reduction soil depth credit, nutrient reduction, or NPDES compliance.

888.10 INSPECTION WELLS.

- (a) Inspection wells are to be used to provide access for visual observation and sampling of the effluent from HSTS.
- (b) Inspection wells shall be watertight, fitted with secure covers, shall be accessible for inspection and shall be provided on any HSTS which discharges.
- (c) Inspection wells must be designed to allow sampling of effluent such that the inlet and outlet pipe are positioned a least six inches off the interior base.
- (d) The following table indicates the minimum size of inspection well necessary for various depths of effluent discharge line:

Depth of Line (feet)	Diameter of Inspection Well (inches)
0 - 2	8
More than 2	12

888.11 PRIVIES.

- (a) A privy shall be provided with a watertight sewage tank of not less than 500 gallons capacity.
- (b) The construction of the superstructure and sewage tank shall be in such a manner as to prevent access to the contents by insects, rodents and other animals or fowl. The privy shall be constructed to facilitate emptying and cleaning from outside the superstructure.
- (c) The sewage tank and superstructure shall be adequately ventilated.

888.12. EFFLUENT DISINFECTION.

Where disinfection is required, any disinfection unit must meet NSF/ANSI Standard 46 or as approved by the Health Commissioner.

888.13 ELECTRICAL DEVICES.

All electrical service connections must be made in conformance with applicable local and/or national electric codes. It is the installer responsibility to obtain any applicable electric permits and inspections that may be required by local building officials. Health District inspections will not certify that the electrical components have been installed correctly.

888.14 OTHER STS COMPONENTS.

Other STS components may be permitted as approved by the Sewage Technical Committee and the Ohio Department of Health as permitted by Chapter 3701-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

888.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Environmental Health Code shall be in violation of ORC 3707.48, 3709.20, 3709.21 or 3709.22, and subject to penalties provided in ORC 3707.99 and 3709.99.

(Resolution 165-07, July 12, 2007)