



## technical guide 4 : cesspool emptiers

### licencing and conditions

In the Cayman Islands, the business of emptying septic tanks and cesspools is carried out by licenced operators in the private sector and regulated by the Water Authority.

#### **WATER AUTHORITY LAW AND REGULATIONS**

The Law requires that **anyone in the business of emptying septic tanks or cesspools must obtain a licence from the Authority**. The Law also requires that **septage, which is the contents from septic tanks or cesspools**, is disposed of as the Authority directs and to the satisfaction of the Chief Environmental Health Officer. Failure to comply with the Law is an offence that may result in a fine of \$10,000.00 and imprisonment for twelve months.

The Regulations require the submission of a completed application and \$200.00 fee to obtain a cesspool emptier’s licence. The Authority will verify the applicant’s qualifications supplied with the application and if deemed satisfactory a licence is granted for one year. Licences are renewable on an annual basis and the annual licencing fee is \$200.00.

Application forms are available on the Water Authority’s website: [www.waterauthority.ky](http://www.waterauthority.ky)



#### **TRUCK INSPECTIONS**

Before issuance or renewal of a licence, trucks are inspected for identification tags, tank capacity, and equipment needed to collect and discharge the wastes in a safe and sanitary manner:

- Discharge valve cap, chained to the truck
- Vacuum hose at least 50 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter
- Pry-bar or other tool to open septic tank covers
- Muck rake to loosen and guide scum and sludge to vacuum nozzle
- Length of garden hose and disinfectant to clean up minor spills

#### **ACCEPTABLE WASTE LOADS**

Septage from residential or commercial sources where wastewater generation is limited to restrooms, food preparation and/or general cleaning.

#### **PROHIBITED WASTE LOADS**

No wastes containing hazardous or toxic materials such as vehicle fluids, paints or solvents will be accepted.

#### **SEPTAGE DISCHARGE**

In **Grand Cayman**, all septage must be discharged at the Water Authority’s Central Wastewater Treatment Facility on Seymour Drive. Hours are: MON - FRI 7:30 am till 4:00 pm, and SAT from 7:30 am till noon. In an emergency, discharge can be arranged outside these hours by calling 938-7091; an after-hours- surcharge per load will apply.

In the **Sister Islands**, there is no central wastewater treatment facility; therefore, septage is land-filled. Septage shall be delivered and discharged at the landfill, in strict accordance with Department of Environmental Health requirements related to hours of delivery, location and method of discharge.

#### **SEPTAGE TRACKING**

In **Grand Cayman**, for each load delivered, the driver completes and leaves with the Facility Operator a delivery slip identifying the truck, the source(s) of the load and the driver’s name. Once a month, companies are billed based on the number of loads and capacity of truck(s).

In the **Sister Islands**, drivers shall maintain a log on the form provided by the Water Authority. The log shall be kept in the truck during operating hours, available for inspection. On a quarterly basis, copies of the logs shall be submitted to the Water Authority and the Department of Environmental Health.

**BILLING:**

For billing purposes, the volume of discharge (gallons) is equal to a truck’s holding tank capacity (gallons); i.e., there is no allowance for delivery of partial loads.

The capacity of a truck’s holding tank is determined by the Water Authority during annual inspections of septage hauling trucks. Each truck receives and must display a Water Authority Vehicle Identification Number.

For each septage load delivered to the Water Authority’s Wastewater Treatment Facility, the driver completes and deposits with the Facility Operator a form with:

- Truck ID
- Source(s) of the load and
- Driver’s Name



On a monthly basis, companies are billed based on the following:

$$(\text{\# loads} \times \text{gallons per load}) \times (\text{base rate} + \text{EAF* rate}) + \text{after-hours surcharge, if applicable}$$

**RATES:**

Septage Discharge Rates are established in accordance with Water Authority (Amendment) Regulations, 2012:

**The base rate is set annually**, per the calculation in Section 4 of the Regulation.

**The current base rate for septage is CI \$16.354 / per US 1,000 gallons**

**The \*EAF (Energy Adjustment Factor) is set monthly**, per the calculation in Section 2.(2)(b) of the Regulation.

**The after-hours surcharge is CI\$ 60.00 per load** and is levied on all discharges taking place after normal working hours.