



May 10, 2017

Dear IOWPA Certified Inspector,

This is very important information for you, your certified employees and your business.....

As you know, our certification programs are only as good as the people we certify. We rely on our local health department professionals to communicate any challenges they are having with regard to our certification program/s and the individuals we have certified.

- All IOWPA certifications are Individual certifications (not company) for the person taking and passing the exam/s. **THEY ARE NOT TRANSFERRABLE**. Anyone submitting a fraudulent report may be in jeopardy of previous approved inspections being rescinded by their local county health departments. The Certified Inspector/Installer **MUST BE** onsite during the Installation/Inspection.
- IOWPA **requires** each certified Inspector use the IOWPA Inspector's Report and Summary for Residential and Commercial Inspections. You only need complete the parts that are applicable to the system you are inspecting. However, the form must be completed in its entirety including sketches and/or photos of the major components, in particular undocumented systems which should require additional time for your inspection and should be priced out accordingly. This protects you!
- IOWPA's training was very specific about PASS/FAIL. Below is a reminder of the verbiage we encourage you to reference in your report.

Below is language similar to what is provided by the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT) which is used by their certified inspectors program. IOWPA recommends using this language when an individual enters into a verbal or written agreement with their customer.

"Based on what we were able to observe and our experience with onsite wastewater technology, we submit this On-site Sewage System Inspection Report based on the present condition of the onsite sewage system. (YOUR COMPANY NAME) has not been retained to warrant, guarantee, or certify the proper functioning of the system for any period of time in the future. Because of the numerous factors (usage, soil characteristics, previous failures, etc.) which may affect the proper operation of an on-site sewage system, this report shall not be construed as a warranty by our company that the system will function properly for any particular buyer. (YOUR COMPANY NAME). DISCLAIMS ANY WARRANTY, either expressed or implied, arising from the

inspection of the on-site sewage system or this report. We are also not ascertaining the impact the system is having on the environment.”

You may want to include some verbiage stating that “during the inspection if you cannot properly access the system without potential damage, you would need the written approval of the customer to proceed with the understanding you would not be responsible for any service or repairs.”

The IOWPA On-site Sewage System Inspection Report form is available as a pdf refillable form at www.iowpa.org. Just save it to your desktop.....

IOWPA’s Certification Committee has put in place penalties as extreme as rescinding certifications for submission of fraudulent reports.

- Recertification - Going forward, IOWPA will request each certified Inspector to submit two completed reports with their continuing education for recertification every three years. One report should be for a working system and the second report should be for a non-working system.

We have received notification on two separate occasions where two different inspectors inspected the same system....one inspector inspected and documented the system after pumping it, indicating that the system did not need repaired. The only system components that were indicated in the inspection report were a septic tank and a soil absorption field. The other inspector inspected the same system after it had been pumped and inspected by the first inspector. This inspector provided documentation of a septic tank, a soil absorption field and a drywell. The second inspector indicated that the system was in need of repair due to a tank that was not watertight, which is not a definition of failure. Neither inspector filled out the IOWPA Inspection Report form in its entirety, nor did they complete a sketch of the undocumented system as is directed.

If you feel you are Inspector Certified and you have not received adequate training to do an Inspection, we encourage you to attend future IOWPA Inspector trainings plus earn continuing education. At this time we are looking at 2018 for our next trainings.

It is not the intent of IOWPA or a local health department to negatively impact the livelihood of our members; however, it is imperative our certified professionals be consistent, knowledgeable and professional.

We hope this information will be of benefit to you and your certified employees. Thank you.

John Hack, IOWPA President & Certification Co-Chair
Gary Steinhardt, Purdue University & Certification Co-Chair