

Minnesota Septic Contractor License Roadmap

Minnesota SSTS Installation Business License and Installer Certification

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Step-by-step roadmap

1. Select installation as the specialty

Identify whether the business will also design, inspect, or maintain systems; those activities have other specialty requirements.

2. Complete training and examinations

Take the Introduction and Installing courses and pass the corresponding MPCA examinations.

3. Apply with an experience plan

Identify an eligible mentor and the licensed business or agency responsible for the work. Apply before starting the experience so MPCA can review the mentor.

4. Document supervised work

Complete the installations and pump-out observations; submit the experience records to remove restricted status.

5. License the business

Submit the business application, designated-individual documentation, insurance, bond, and \$200 installation-specialty fee.

6. Maintain both credentials

Track annual business renewal and three-year individual certification and CE separately.

Pre-application checklist

- Introduction and Installing examinations passed
- Mentor and experience plan submitted
- 15 qualifying installations documented
- Five pump-outs and disposal observed with a Maintainer
- Restriction removed when MPCA approves experience
- Business license, DCI designation, insurance, and bond filed
- Annual business and three-year individual renewals tracked

Key figures

Application fee: No separate charge for this pathway

Examination: Required

Examination fee: Not established; confirm with provider

Initial license: \$200.00

Renewal: \$200.00; every 1 year(s)

Estimated total cost: \$200 for one business specialty, plus training, any course/exam charges, liability insurance, and the bond premium. A \$25,000 bond does not mean a \$25,000 cash fee. Individual certification and business licensing have different renewal dates.

Time to license: Depends on training, application review, and examination scheduling; no fixed end-to-end timeframe is established here.

Fee scope: The numeric fees cover the installation business specialty only. MPCA charges \$200 per specialty per year, capped at \$400 for multiple specialties. Individual certification has no MPCA fee, but training costs are separate.

Renewal details: The installation business specialty renews annually for \$200 with proof of insurance. MPCA asks for the business renewal at least 21 days before expiration. Individual certification renews separately every three years. Keep the designated individual's certification current as well as the business license; an expired business license does not authorize work.

Continuing education: Individual installers need 12 SSTS continuing-education credits per three-year certification cycle, at least half direct credits. Other specialties can have higher requirements; MPCA explains how multiple certifications are combined.

Primary sources

MPCA — SSTS business licensing: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/ssts-business-licensing>

MPCA — individual certification, training, exams and renewal: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/ssts-individual-certification>

MPCA — certification and licensing FAQ: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/ssts-certification-and-licensing-faq>

Minnesota Rule 7083.1000 — insurance and bond: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7083.1000/>

Minnesota Rule 7083.1050 — experience and mentorship: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7083.1050/>

MPCA — financial assurance guidance: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwists1-57.pdf>

MPCA — installing onsite systems exam description: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwists12-16b.pdf>

MPCA — introduction to onsite systems exam description: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwists12-15b.pdf>

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