

95% OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS WITHOUT MANDATORY EUROPEAN CERTIFICATION

OVER 95% of the individual sewage treatment systems presently on offer in the Irish market do not comply with a new EU certification standard which is to be enforced across all member states from June 2008. EN12566 demands a new level of testing and certification for all sewage treatment systems up to and including 50 persons . The new certification is especially relevant for rural one off dwellings.

A decade ago, eight out of ten houses opted for the traditional septic tank; now some 60% are looking for a more comprehensive, environmentally friendly and efficient waste water treatment system. There is a general acceptance that, without a drastic improvement in the general standard of sewage treatment, the recent growth in the number of one-off rural houses must increase the potential for ground water pollution.

The problem for consumers is that, with the dramatic increase in the construction of one off rural houses, a great many providers have emerged in the marketplace; some of whom, unfortunately, sell sewage treatment as arbitrarily as they would sell double-glazing.

At this moment there are a few products available in Ireland that meet the requirements of EN12566, and two such systems are new introductions to the market from EPS Bison and will be followed with a third such product later this year . The first, the Clereflo ASP 6-20, is one of the only products with the required certification being manufactured in Ireland.

The Clereflo system is installed completely below ground, quiet and odourless, easy to install, based on proven technology and can be backed up, through EPS Bison, by product support, installation, commissioning, desludging and maintenance services.

The second system offered by EPS Bison is Aquamax, a fully automated, state of the art and environmentally conscious option for sewage treatment.

In the case of both products, EPS Bison offers a complete engineering solution from start to finish and provides all requirements under the same roof . This contrasts significantly and crucially with many more products on the market, which do not include vital site evaluation and various other services . EPS Bison can be involved right through the planning process up to maintenance and follow-up support.

To an extent, the EU is one of EPS's greatest allies. Because 52% of Ireland's drinking water is currently considered to be contaminated to some extent, the European Union is forcing Ireland's hand and pushing both local authorities and individual householders towards the best possible water and wastewater treatment solutions; solutions provided to the very highest standard by EPS. Patrick Buckley, who heads up the BISON division, advocates a national grant system which would facilitate rural householders threefold; in the upgrading of their septic tanks, the provision of rainwater harvesting and the upgrading of well water supplies. A combined approach would, Patrick believes, "conserve water supplies and ensure long term environmental benefits

moving forward. This in turn will help in our efforts to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive”.

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