



331-780 House Bill 1947 Implementation

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Final Bill Report HB 1947

What is changing in [RCW 70A.125.060](#)?

Satellite Management Agency (SMA) requirements will no longer apply to “simple” Group B water systems.

SMAs will only be required if a Group B water system:

- (i) Is required to provide treatment to meet water quality standards;
- (ii) Provides fire flow;
- (iii) Has atmospheric storage; or
- (iv) Serves ten or more service connections.

What does this mean for ODW and LHJs?

Since the RCW changes the original language, the term “new” refers back to the original date of implementation. In the law it means SMAs are no longer required for any Group B system that doesn’t have required treatment, fire flow, atmospheric storage, or serve ten or more connections.

The current Group B Rule, [chapter 246-291 WAC](#), was effective beginning January 1, 2014. The rule requires treatment for iron and manganese for new and expanding Group B systems. Systems that installed iron and manganese treatment prior to that date are not considered “required to provide treatment” for the purposes of this new law.

The local health jurisdictions (LHJs) may have more stringent language in their Group B ordinance for both SMAs and treatment. If LHJs have more restrictions in their ordinance than this statute, it is their ordinance language that is enforceable.

If LHJs do not have more stringent regulations or refer to state guidelines, then RCW 70A.125.060 is enforced by whomever has Group B authority in that county. For more information, see our [Group B Water Systems webpage](#). For local health contacts go to our [Washington State Local Health Jurisdictions webpage](#).

When does this apply?

This bill goes into effect July 27, 2025.

What this Means for Group B Water Systems

How do Group B system owners request SMA exemptions?

After reviewing the obligations of operating their own water system and knowing who will be responsible for them without professional assistance, Group B water systems should communicate with either their LHJ or ODW depending upon the Group B

authority, followed by submittal of updated contact information to our [Water Facilities Inventory \(WFI\) team](#), at wfi@doh.wa.gov.

Who do I contact for this conversation about changes in expectations?

Contact the [ODW staff member assigned to your county](#).

Who maintains the Group B water system?

The owners of the Group B system are responsible to maintain the system. Water quality sampling is still required in some counties and is recommended for all Group B systems. All systems still need to be maintained. Professional management is safer and results in more reliable and safe potable water service to the water system customers. If the system is modified to include required treatment to meet water quality standards, provide fire flow, provide atmospheric storage; or serve ten or more service connections, it resumes the SMA requirement.

What assistance can Group B systems receive from the Office of Drinking Water?

If ODW is the Group B authority, our [Group B Water Systems webpage](#) clarifies that, staff may:

1. Determine whether a health advisory is necessary (WAC 246-291-360), and follow procedure for *E. coli*, nitrate, waterborne disease, or natural disaster.
2. Determine whether sampling for targeted drinking water contaminant is necessary (WAC 246-291-300).

Additionally, staff will inform the water system purveyor of their responsibility to:

1. Conduct public notice for exceedance of a chronic contaminant (WAC 246-291-360(2)).
2. Properly notify customers preceding an end to utility operations (WAC 246-291-250(2)).
3. Properly notify customers preceding a transfer of ownership (WAC 246-291-250(1)).

Our webpage, [Group B Water Systems](#) contains a broad range of resources and guidance for water system purveyors and customers.

What should SMAs do?

SMAs should notify us to let us know they're no longer responsible for the water system by sending an email to DW.SMA@doh.wa.gov.



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov. If in need of translation services, call 1-800-525-0127.