

Summary

How does the regulation in Denmark affect the requirements for small sewer systems in rural areas

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In the middle of the 1990 the receiving waters in rural areas were polluted. 50% of the rivers and 2/3-3/4 of the lakes did not fulfill the requirements set by the government. Therefore in 1995 a special law was prepared for improving the condition of receiving waters in rural areas

All receiving waters were classified in regional plans. Sensitive areas, where improvements had to be made, should be incorporated in the sewer plans for every municipality in Denmark. With this done, there was authority to demand improvement on every single property, that did not fulfill these environmental requirements. An investigation was required for every single property, before the demand was legal.

In Denmark we have 360 single properties in the open country. 96.000 will be asked to improve their sewers. Implementation of the Water Frame Directive will add 14.000 properties

The normal solutions in Denmark are:

- Sewer systems (pressure sewer systems) (SOP)
- Soil infiltration systems (SOP)
- Mini waste water treatment plants (from S to SOP)
- Sandfilter systems (SO)
- Willow plants (SOP)
- Others (Filtralite, soil/plant systems) (SO)

The qualities of the solutions are secured in the following way:

- Denmark has national guidelines for all the normally used types of plants
- Denmark has a compulsory type approval for mini waste water treatments plants, that goes beyond the CE-mark
- Denmark has demands on septic tanks, that goes beyond the CE-mark
- Denmark have compulsory authorization for all contractors working with private sewer systems