



*Republic of the Philippines*  
**CITY SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
*City of Zamboanga*

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE SEPTAGE  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN ZAMBOANGA CITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
ORDINANCE NO. 2009-152**

Pursuant to Section Nos. 9 and 10 of Ordinance No. 2009-152 the City Septage Management Council (CSMC) hereby promulgates and adopts the following rules and regulations; and implements certain provisions and specifications related to septage management of the National Building Code (R.A. 6541), Code on Sanitation (PD 856), Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines (R.A. 1378), and Philippine Clean Water Act (R.A. 9275). These implementing rules and regulations include all text of the Ordinance with rules added at the end of each section, as needed.

**SECTION 1. TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as the **“Septage Management System Ordinance.”**

**Rule 1. Title.** These rules shall be known and cited as the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Ordinance No. 2009-152, the “Septage Management System Ordinance” (SMSO).

- 1.1 **Reference.** The text of Ordinance No. 2009-152 is reproduced herein for reference purposes.
- 1.2 **Effectivity of the SMSO.** Ordinance No. 2009-152 was enacted on July 8, 2009. It will take effect 15 days after its approval and publication and after the operationalization of the septage treatment facility and/or contract of desludging by service providers.

**SECTION 2. SCOPE AND COVERAGE.** This Ordinance shall apply to all buildings, facilities and structures whether public or private, residential or commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, proposed/planned or existing, or any activity/endeavor that shall use water and produce wastewater with permanent or prolonged effect to the environment. However, buildings, structures or businesses that have on-site wastewater treatment facilities approved by the City Government and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) shall be exempted from this Ordinance.

**Rule 2.1 Interpretation of the Scope and Coverage.** The Septage Management System Ordinance (SMSO) shall apply to all buildings, facilities and structures whether public or private, residential or commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, proposed/planned or existing or any activity/endeavor that are currently connected and supplied with water by the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD). A supplemental IRR will be formulated in the future for those who are not currently connected and supplied with water from ZCWD.

**Rule 2.2 Exemptions.** Buildings, structures or businesses that have on-site wastewater treatment facilities approved by (1) the City Government, (2) the Environmental Management Bureau and (3) the Department of Health (DOH); or those that have active and authorized connections to Zamboanga City Water District’s (ZCWD’s) sewerage system shall be exempted from this Ordinance.

**SECTION 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** In consonance with the Clean Water Act of 2004 that pursues a policy of economic growth in a manner consistent with the protection, preservation and revival of the quality of our water, and other related laws, particularly Section XVII of the Code on Sanitation in the Philippines (P.D. 865); the Local Government Code (R.A. 7160 – Section on Environmental Services); and the Water District Law (P.D. 198), the City Government of Zamboanga is committed to improve or enhance health, environment and the economic conditions in the city. Towards this end, it is hereby declared the policy of the City to require all households, public and commercial establishments to have proper sewage treatment or septage management.

The City shall declare its policy for any use of water and its discharge of any wastewater that no “spent water” shall be reintroduced to the environment without any proper treatment, and that as a matter of policy, the user of any water shall be held responsible to treat the same.

Lastly, as a matter of policy, all water users using and discharging from 0 – 40 m<sup>3</sup> of sewage shall have at least a two-closed chamber septic tank; 41 – 500 m<sup>3</sup> of sewage at least three-closed chamber septic tank; 501 – 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> at least five-closed chamber with pond. Any discharge of industrial or institutional or commercial waste or even from residential that produces more than 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> sewage shall either have a wastewater treatment facility or shall have an existing contract of service with any duly accredited wastewater treatment facility server.

***Rule 3.1 Interpretation of the Declaration of Policy.*** The policy statements in Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be interpreted collectively, and all regulations issued pursuant to the Ordinance and decisions over disputes in specific cases shall be implemented or made with due consideration of this policy. Issues and cases shall be resolved in a fair and objective manner. This Ordinance and these rules shall be construed liberally in favor of protecting the quality of water resources and public health.

***Rule 3.2 Details.*** The City Government of Zamboanga is committed to improve or enhance health, environment and economic conditions through proper septage management by requiring all households, public and commercial establishments to have proper sewage treatment or appropriately designed septic tanks with septage management. Discharges from industrial, institutional or residential buildings that exceed 1,000 cubic meters per month of sewage shall either have an onsite wastewater treatment facility or contract of service with a duly accredited wastewater treatment facility.

**SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** As used in this Ordinance, the following terms and phrases shall mean:

**4.1 Anaerobic Ponds** – refer to deep stabilization ponds used to treat high strength organic wastewater that also contains high concentration of solids. Anaerobic treatment does not require the presence and use of oxygen and encourages the growth of bacteria, which breaks down the waste material, releasing methane and carbon dioxide.

**4.2 Baffle** – refers to a device (as a wall or screen) to deflect, check or regulate the flow of septage. It promotes preliminary and primary treatment of the incoming sewage by allowing the physical separation of solid and liquid components in the sewage.

**4.3 OCENR** – refers to the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources.

**4.4 Chamber** – refers to an enclosed space, cavity or compartment of a septic tank.

**4.5 Communal Excreta Disposal System** – refers to an excreta disposal system serving a subdivision or urban group of dwelling units.

**4.6 Desludging** – refers to the process of removing the accumulated sludge or septage from the septic tank.

**4.7 Digestion** – refers to a microbiological process that converts the chemically complex organic sludge to methane, carbon dioxide, and inoffensive humus-like material.

**4.8 Disposal Field or Leaching Bed** – refers to a soil-based effluent disposal system composed of pipes and shallow trenches leading from the outlet of the septic tank, consisting of open jointed or perforated pipes so distributed that effluent from a septic tank is oxidized and absorbed by the soil. The surrounding bedding material of the network of pipes should be of high enough permeability to effect treatment by seepage.

**4.9 Domestic Sewage** – refers to sewage containing human excrement and liquid household waste. Also called sanitary sewage.

**4.10 Domestic Sludge** – refers to the solid particle of domestic sewage, which settle at the bottom of the sedimentation tank and is digested by anaerobic bacteria purely from domestic sources, exclusive of industrial and hazardous wastes.

**4.11 Effluent** – refers to a general term denoting any wastewater, partially or completely treated, or in its natural state, flowing out of a drainage canal, septic tank, building, manufacturing plant, industrial plant, treatment plant, etc.

**4.12 Facultative Ponds** – refers to the shallow rectangular ponds that stabilize wastes using a combination of anaerobic, aerobic, and facultative (aerobic-anaerobic) process.

**4.13 Freeboard or Airspace of a Septic Tank** – refers to the distance as measured from the maximum liquid level line to the underside of the septic tank slab or cover.

**4.14 Individual Excreta Disposal System** – refers to an excreta disposal system serving a dwelling unit.

**4.15 Maturation Ponds** – refers to a low-rate stabilization ponds that are designed to provide for secondary effluent polishing and seasonal nitrification.

**4.16 “P” Traps** – refers to the traps used on plumbing fixtures, such as toilets and drains, to prevent sewage gases from entering the plumbing system or the atmosphere.

**4.17 Scum** – refers to the slimy or filmy covering on the surface of the liquid in the septic tank.

**4.18 Seepage Pit** – refers to a loosely lined excavation in the ground that receives the discharge of a septic tank and designed to permit the effluent from the septic tank to seep through pit bottom and sides.

**4.19 Septage** – refers to thickened and partially treated sewage that is removed from a septic tank.

**4.20 Septic Tank** – refers to a watertight receptacle, which receives the discharge of a sanitary plumbing system or part thereof, and is designed and constructed to accomplish the sedimentation and digestion of the organic matter in the sewage within the period of detention/retention and to allow the liquid to discharge to a leaching field, sewer lines, a combined sewerage network or directly to a secondary wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the standards set forth by the Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines.

**4.21 Sewage** – refers to any wastewater containing human, animal or vegetable waste matter in suspension or solution including human excreta and urine and may possibly contain liquids consisting of chemicals in solution.

**4.22 Sewer** – refers to an artificial pipe or conduit for carrying sewage and wastewater.

**4.23 Sewerage** – refers to a comprehensive term, including all construction for collecting, transporting, and pumping of sewage. Usually refers to a buried system of underground pipes.

**4.24 Sewage Works** – refer to a comprehensive term for pumping, treating and final disposal of effluent via a centralized treatment plant.

**4.25 Sludge** – refers to the precipitated solid matter with highly mineralized content produced by water and sewage treatment processes.

**4.26 Stabilization Pond** – refers to an artificial pond designed to treat wastewater in general using solely naturally occurring biological treatment processes, and without the need for an electro-mechanical energy input.

**4.27 Subsurface Absorption Bed or Drain Field** – also called leaching bed, leaching field, or soaked away. An underground system of pipes embedded in a suitably porous soil medium leading from the outlet of the septic tank, consisting of open jointed or perforated pipes so distributed that the effluent from a septic tank is oxidized and absorbed by the soil. Must be located far from environmentally critical/waterways or groundwater wells.

**4.28 Spent or Used Water** – refers to sewage and other wastewater discharge or used water resulting from any human, commercial, institutional activity, facility or endeavor regardless whether pollutive or not.

**SECTION 5. SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.** For purposes of this Ordinance, septage management refers to the comprehensive programs for managing septic tanks and the procedures for the desludging, transporting, treating and disposing of septic tank contents. As such, a Septage Management System is hereby established which includes but not limited to the following:

**5.1 Excreta Disposal System.** All houses and/or residential buildings shall be required to have an approved excreta disposal system for treatment of domestic sewage.

**5.2 Desludging and Transfer of Septage to the Septage Treatment Facility.** Liquid and/or solid materials removed from septic tanks shall be transported by a septage hauler/pumper to the approved septage treatment facilities following Department of Health regulations on desludging and transport of sludge. No septage hauler/pumper can unload or dispose of septage in other places, including bodies of water, agricultural fields, and the drainage system within the city until the implementing rules and regulations for proper land application have been issued by the authorized

government agencies such as the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Management Bureau – Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Department of Health and Office of the City Health.

**5.3 Septage Treatment Facility.** Sludge/Septage shall be processed and treated before disposal and shall be disposed of only in approved and licensed septage treatment facilities such as but not limited to lagoon or stabilization ponds and other approved or integrated technologies. Each approved septage facility shall have an operations and maintenance plan that will include provisions for reducing system upset, including immediate actions to prevent the occurrence of foul smells and release of partially treated effluent from the system.

***Rule 5.1 Approved excreta disposal systems.*** Approved excreta disposal systems shall mean any of the following:

- 5.1.1 Flush toilets properly connected to a community sewer;
- 5.1.2 Flush toilets connected to a septic tank constructed in accordance with Section 7 herein;
- 5.1.3 Any approved type pit privy built in accordance with the Sanitation Code (PD 856); and
- 5.1.4 Any disposal device approved by the Secretary of Health or his duly authorized representative.

***Rule 5.2 Desludging and Transfer of Septage to the Treatment Facility***

***5.2.1 Desludging Procedures***

5.2.1.1 The city will engage service providers to desludge the septic tanks of ZCWD customers on a 5 year rotating schedule. An additional cost will be imposed if a customer requests desludging before or after their scheduled time.

5.2.1.2 The collection of septage shall be done in coordination with the *Punong Barangay* or his/her duly authorized representative who shall sign the manifest form (CSMC Form 1). Preferably, collection shall be done when traffic is light in the area. All collection vehicles shall have traffic cones or an early warning device. Traffic cones shall be placed behind and in front of the vehicle during operation.

5.2.1.3 It is the responsibility of the service provider to check the safety equipment daily before proceeding to a collection site. Any safety equipment deficiencies shall be reported to the supervisor. After the desludging operation, the operator must clean and disinfect any spills with a bleach solution or by spreading lime on the spillage. It is the service provider's responsibility to verify that sufficient disinfectant (bleach or lime) is on the truck before it goes to a collection site.

5.2.1.4 Desludging workers must wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including rubber gloves, rubber boots, a face mask, and eye protection. After pumping, operators must wash their hands with soap. No employee should enter a septic tank without proper safety equipment, including a rope for retrieval in case the worker becomes unconscious.

### ***5.2.2 Transfer of Septage to the Treatment Facility***

5.2.2.1 The driver and service providers are responsible for safe operation of the vehicle and equipment at all times. Traffic rules must be followed at all times. All accidents and citations shall be reviewed and investigated by management to ensure adequately trained and competent drivers are employed for sludge and septage transportation. The collection vehicle used for the transport of septage and domestic sludge shall have a leak-proof body and lock to secure the sludge and septage; and must be able to withstand a collision with another vehicle or any permanent structure.

### ***5.2.3 Accidental Spillage***

In the event of accidental spillage of sludge/septage, the operator shall:

5.2.3.1 Immediately take action to contain the sludge/septage, minimize the environmental impact, and begin clean-up procedures. To the extent possible, the operator shall contain the spill by using a shovel to dig a containment trench and disinfect by applying a bleach solution or lime to the area. Then, with a rake, broom or shovel, the operator shall pick up solids and dispose as solid waste.

5.2.3.2 The operator must notify the LGU within 24 hours, using the Accidental Spillage Notification Form (CSMC Form 2).

5.2.3.3 In the event that a service provider fails to perform clean-up operations, the LGU shall perform the clean-up and charge all related expenses incurred to the service provider.

### ***Rule 5.3 Septage Treatment and Disposal***

5.3.1 All domestic sludge/septage shall be processed and treated before disposal. Septage facilities, including treatment and disposal facilities and septage truck yards, must maintain a hygienic and safe work environment. Facilities and equipment must be properly designed, installed, and maintained.

5.3.2 Only sludge and septage with corresponding manifest forms shall be accepted by the facility.

5.3.3 The treatment facility shall comply with existing standards and regulations of regulating agencies, including disposal of treated effluent to the receiving environment. As such, it should conform to the DOH ***Operations Manual on the Rules and Regulations Governing Domestic Sludge and Septage.***

5.3.4 Treatment facilities shall comply with hygienic and sanitation requirements based on the following minimum requirements:

5.3.4.1 Hand washing facility (1)

5.3.4.2 Toilet (1)

5.3.4.3 Bathroom (1)

5.3.4.4 Drinking water fountain/dispenser (1)

5.3.4.5 Utility sink (1)

5.3.4.6 Ventilation and lighting

5.3.4.7 Flooring and walls shall be made of impervious materials

5.3.4.8 All plumbing fixtures must be in accordance with the National Plumbing Code (R.A. 1378)

5.3.4.9 Soap and any approved hand-drying device/material

5.3.4.10 There must be adequate and separate changing rooms for both male and female users with individual lockers for clothes and personal belongings.

#### ***Rule 5.4 Record Keeping and Reporting***

5.4.1 The requirements for record keeping are applicable to all stages of septage management: desludging, transportation, treatment and disposal. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

5.4.1.1 Properly filled out and complete manifest forms, which include desludging schedule, volume of septage, and the service provider's information.

5.4.1.2 Inventory of tools and notes of deficiencies with the septic tank (e.g., cracks, missing pipes, improper manholes, etc.).

5.4.2 The service provider shall submit these documents to the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR) on a monthly basis and retain copies for a minimum of five (5) years.

## **SECTION 6. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS OF SEPTIC TANKS OR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

### **6.1 Construction of New Buildings or Structures**

6.1.1 No building plan for residential dwelling units or commercial, industrial, institutional, or recreational structures shall be approved unless the design of the sanitary plumbing and septic tank or wastewater treatment facility conforms to the specifications as provided under Section 3 and Section 7 herein and other pertinent regulations.

Alternative wastewater treatment systems shall be duly approved and endorsed by the City Government. Further, as governed by DENR regulations, all malls, restaurants, hotels, apartelles and other residential buildings, subdivisions, hospitals and similar establishments are required to utilize sewage treatment facilities as a condition to granting of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECCs) and permits to operate.

6.1.2 It shall be the duty of the owner, administrator or contractor to inform the City Engineer's Office that the newly constructed septic tank,

sewage treatment facility or alternative treatment system, with prior plan approval, is ready for inspection. The new system shall not be covered or used until inspected and approved by the City Engineer's Office.

## **6.2 Existing Residential Buildings or Structures**

6.2.1 Owners of existing septic tanks that are not accessible for desludging are required to repair or upgrade their tank so it can be desludged. If repairs are not possible, such owners are required to build a new septic tank that will comply with the provisions set herein.

6.2.2 The cost of repair and upgrading shall be borne by the owners.

6.2.3 Communal or shared septic tanks can be used alternatively whenever feasible, particularly for existing clustered structures that are highly dense and characterized by lack of or inadequate land space. The design and the manifest of ownership and joint maintenance shall go through an approval process as determined by the City.

**6.3 Owners of Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Buildings of Facilities shall have an operational wastewater treatment facility, either on-site or by service off-site. The said facility shall conform with the standards of EMB-DENR and DOH.**

### ***Rule 6. Requirements for Design and Construction of Septic Tanks or Wastewater Treatment Facilities***

**6.1 Septic Systems for New Buildings or Structures.** Septic permits are required for construction of all new septic tanks, proposed remodeling or repairs, or where the use of commercial properties has changed. The City Health Office issues a septic permit when the septic tank complies with all design, installation and structural requirements. All necessary information to complete a septic permit application form is in CSMC Form 3.

**6.2** The Building Official from the City Engineer's Office shall inspect and/or monitor the construction of the system to ensure compliance with the issued septic permit.

**SECTION 7. SPECIFICATIONS.** Septic tanks shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the standards set forth by the National Building Code, particularly Chapter IX, Sections 901 and 903 thereof, and as prescribed by the Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines, and Chapter XVII of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines, including proper sizing and layout, and the criteria set forth below:

7.1 It shall be designed to produce an effluent consistent with approved engineering and environmental standards.

7.2 It shall be built of solid durable materials and shall be watertight. Materials shall conform to applicable Philippine material standards.

7.3 It shall not be constructed under any building and not within twenty five (25) meters from any existing source of water supply.

7.4 It shall be divided into a minimum of two compartments.

7.5 Where more than one tank is used to accommodate the required liquid volume in a given minimum retention time of 2 days, the tank should be conjoined.



7.6 Adequate venting shall be provided in each compartment with the use of ventilating pipes not less than 50 mm in diameter. For buildings where plumbing fixtures have appropriate “p” traps, venting should occur through the plumbing stack in the building, not from the septic tank. For buildings where toilets and sinks are not protected with “p” traps, traps should be installed, or vent directly from the septic tank.

7.7 There shall be at least one maintenance hole for each compartment, with a minimum side dimension of 500 mm. All maintenance hole shall extend through the tank cover and shall extend to finished grade. Manhole covers shall be designed with durable and fully coated or non-corrosive handles for easy lifting. Septic tank access covers should be secured from unauthorized entry, either through safety screws, locks or a tank lid that weighs 15 kg or more.

7.8 Outlet from the septic tank: The design, construction and location of structures receiving effluent from septic tanks shall conform to the Revised Plumbing Code of the Philippines. Effluent treatment is further required but will be covered by a separate ordinance and other infrastructure projects.

7.9 For clustered structures or houses that are highly dense and characterized by lack of or inadequate land space, there shall be designed a communal septic tank consistent with approved engineering and environmental standards.

**SECTION 8. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.** The administration and enforcement of this Ordinance for all buildings, facilities and plants are hereby vested in the City Government of Zamboanga.

Upon the approval of this Ordinance, the City Government shall immediately institute and implement this Ordinance in all buildings and institutions along Senator R.T. Lim Boulevard.

**Rule 8. Administration and Enforcement.** The Septage Management System in Zamboanga City shall be administered and enforced by the City Septage Management Council with members listed in Section 9 and functions listed in Section 10. Other persons may be invited to provide technical advice to the CSMC.

**8.1** Per Rule 2.1 Interpretation of the Scope and Coverage, the City Government shall institute and implement this Ordinance not only along Senator R.T. Lim Boulevard but in all buildings and institutions that are currently connected and supplied with water by the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD).

**SECTION 9. CREATION OF A SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.** There shall be created a City Septage Management Council (CSMC) which shall be composed of the following:

Chairman.....City Mayor or his duly authorized representative  
Secretariat.....Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR) (Lead Agency)

Members:

Chairperson, Committee on Health and Sanitation,  
Sangguniang Panlungsod of Zamboanga City

Chairperson, Committee on Environment and  
Natural Resources, Sangguniang Panlungsod of  
Zamboanga City

City Health Officer

City Planning and Development Coordinator

City Engineer

City Treasurer

City Licensing Officer

General Manager, Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD), or his duly authorized representative

Regional Director, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR), Regional Office IX, or his duly authorized representative

Regional Director, Department of Health (DOH), Center for Health and Development, Regional Office IX, or his duly authorized representative

President, Pollution Control Officers Association of Region IX, Inc., Zamboanga City Chapter, or his duly authorized representative

President, Liga ng mga Barangay of Zamboanga City, or his duly authorized representative

President, Industrial Group of Zamboanga, Inc. (IGZI), or his duly authorized representative.

**SECTION 10. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.** The City Septage Management Council shall have the following functions:

10.1 The City Septage Management Council shall oversee the conduct of a survey of all properties and premises in coordination with barangay officials to determine if a septic tank is present, and if it is accessible for desludging.

10.2 To accredit and license private septage or desludging service providers or wastewater treatment facilities.

10.3 To review and approve the applications of service providers and to recommend the same for approval of the Sangguniang Panlungsod through the Office of the City Mayor.

10.4 To receive and hear complaints from residential owners and issue decisions.

10.5 If a septic tank is not present or it is inaccessible for desludging, the City Septage Management Council shall serve notices of non-conformance to the provisions of this Ordinance to the owners/administrators, or occupants. At this time, information on proper methods of complying with this Ordinance will be disseminated.

10.6 The City Septage Management Council, or its authorized representatives in coordination with the deputized barangay official shall be permitted to visit properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling and testing. A prior

notice shall be given property-owners to facilitate inspection and provide assistance to the City Septage Management Council or barangay representatives.

10.7 For those property owners, administrators or occupants served with notices of non-conformance, a compliance period shall be set by the property owners, administrators or occupants and the City Septic Management Council. The compliance period shall be based on the proper installation of an acceptable septic tank of which design is specified in this Ordinance and by national law.

10.8 For new developments, the occupancy permit issued by the building officials shall serve as certificate of compliance until the City Septage Management Council conducts another round of inspection.

10.9 The City Septage Management Council shall plan and implement an information and education program on wastewater management and the city's septage management system.

**SECTION 11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION.** Close monitoring of all activities in the treatment facilities shall be conducted by the OCENR as per their mandate. Should it be determined by OCENR that there is non-compliance, a compliance schedule shall be agreed upon with the City Septage Management Council. Continued non-compliance past the agreed upon compliance schedule, the facility will be closed from accepting septage from this program.

**Rule 11.** In case there is non-compliance, OCENR will recommend to the Mayor and to the CSMC that the facility be closed from accepting septage from any source or other appropriate action be taken.

**SECTION 12. DESLUDGING.** Septic tanks require desludging when the tank is half filled or once every five (5) years, whichever comes first, and the next desludging if done within the five (5) year period, will be an add-on cost to the household.

12.1 The City Septage Management Council shall keep a record of all owners/administrators of buildings, facilities and structures who have desludged their septic tanks, those that are inaccessible, those that do not have septic tanks, and those that do not have water-sealed toilets, and other data that may be deemed necessary by the City Septage Management Council.

12.2 The City Septage Management Council shall implement and adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Department of Health and EMB-DENR in handling, transporting, treatment and disposal of septage.

12.3 The City Septage Management Council shall strictly implement an accreditation system and operational guidelines for private desludging service providers that would like to operate in the city, including but not limited to securing an Environmental Sanitation Clearance (ESC) which is discussed more thoroughly in the rules and regulations set forth by the Department of Health in handling, transporting, treatment and disposal of septage.

The City Health Office in conjunction with the City Septage Management Council shall issue Sanitary Permits for all treatment and collection facilities and develop their own procedures for periodic inspections of facilities and equipment, and training programs for septage workers.

**Rule 12. Schedule of Desludging.** The City shall be grouped into five (5) clusters consisting of 12 zones; each is composed of a group of barangays and takes into consideration the number of water connections/septic tanks and geographical locations. All ZCWD customer septic tanks within each cluster shall be scheduled for desludging on a five (5) year cycle. At the end of every cycle, the clustering shall be updated. The grouping of barangays into clusters is shown in the Annex.

**SECTION 13. SERVICE PROVIDER.** The City Government of Zamboanga may operate a wastewater or treatment facility and/or desludging services and in the absence of service facilities may contract with Private Service Providers, either desludging, transporting or wastewater treatment facility, provided that they shall have the necessary funds to support capital expenditures and operating and maintenance expenses of their septage management systems.

**Rule 13. Service Provider**

**13.1 City Government.** The City Government has three options that it may exercise: (1) purchase septage trucks and build a septage treatment facility, which shall be operated and maintained through administration or management contract(s); (2) enter into a contract with the ZCWD to provide septage collection, treatment and disposal services; and/or (3) enter into a contract(s) with private companies to provide septage collection, treatment and disposal services. Under such a plan,

*13.1.1* The contractor(s) will be chosen based on the lowest service fee (cost), demonstrated ability to carry out the contract, and other qualifications.

*13.1.2* Payments will be based on monthly billing.

*13.1.3* The prime septage treatment contractor(s) may develop a system for accepting septage from other septage hauling operators as long as all septage is properly documented through manifests in accordance with the DOH operations manual.

**13.2 Accreditation**

*13.2.1* To become accredited, service providers are required to obtain the permits/certifications listed below and submit them to OCENR. Only accredited service providers may participate in the bidding process following the Implementing Rules and Regulations of bidding pursuant to RA 9184. These accreditation requirements are applicable to all service providers handling septage desludging, transportation, treatment and disposal.

*13.2.1.1* Environmental Sanitation Clearance (ESC) issued by the Center for Health and Development, DOH Region 9. The flow chart for securing the ESC is in CSMC Form 4 and the checklist of requirements and the application for ESC is in CSMC Form 5.

*13.2.1.2* Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC); Wastewater Discharge Permit (WDP); certificate of accreditation of a full-time Pollution Control Officer (PCO) issued by the Environmental Management Bureau, DENR Region 9.

*13.2.1.3 Sanitary Permit issued by the City Health Office*

*13.2.1.4 Business Permit issued by the Office of the City Mayor*

*13.2.1.5 Others that may be required by OCENR or other relevant government agencies.*

*13.2.2 The CSMC shall review applications for accreditation of service providers and conduct site inspections; and approve the list of accredited applicants.*

**SECTION 14. USER FEE.** All residential and commercial/institutional building or structure owners shall pay an amount for the desludging of their septic tanks and treatment of the septage equivalent to the following:

14.1 The amount of P1.75 per cubic meter of water consumed per month will be collected from all residents, government offices and other agencies, and added to the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD) monthly water bill (Refer to Annex “A”).

14.2 Commercial establishments that have their own water source shall be required to install a production meter. The quantity of water produced shall be the basis for computing the cost of desludging the septic tank.

14.3 Users who have their own onsite wastewater treatment system, certified by the City Government as functioning and compliant and those who are connected to the existing ZCWD sewerage pipe shall be exempt from paying the required user fee.

14.4 Residential houses without any water connection or temporary facilities sharing a communal septic tank shall be charged with the corresponding fee of P1.75 per cubic meter of water consumed per month.

***Rule 14.1 User Fee.*** The user fee of P1.75 is pursuant to Ordinance No. 2009-152.

***Rule 14.2 Non-ZCWD Customers.*** Charging of user fees for commercial establishments having their own water source and residential houses without any water connection or temporary facilities sharing a communal septic tank will be addressed in a supplemental IRR.

***Rule 14.3 Exemptions.*** The following shall be exempted from paying the user fee:

*14.3.1 Users who have their own functioning and compliant on-site wastewater treatment system certified by the City Government through OCENR.*

*14.3.2 Users with active and authorized connections to the sewerage system of the ZCWD.*

**SECTION 15. COLLECTION OF USER’S FEES.** The Zamboanga City Water District is hereby authorized to collect user’s fees and shall remit the same to the City Treasurer and shall accrue to the General Fund.

***Rule 15. Collection of User’s Fees.*** A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be entered into and executed between the City Government and ZCWD that authorizes the latter to collect the fees and remit the net amount monthly to the

City Treasurer. The net amount refers to the total amount collected less the agreed upon administrative cost for the collection services rendered by ZCWD.

**SECTION 16. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.**

16.1 **Issuance of Non-Conformity.** The City Septage Management Council shall issue a notice of non-conformity to property owners, administrators or occupants who do not have a septic tank, whose septic tank is not designed properly, or is inaccessible for desludging unless they have an alternative system approved by the City Government.

16.2 **Penalties.** The violator or owner of a non-complying establishment or household, who fails to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance within one (1) year as provided under Paragraph 1.3, Section 458 of the Local Government Code, must pay the fines per violation set herein in lieu of prosecution:

- For private residential buildings ..... Php1,000.00
- For hotels, apartments, banks, offices,  
shops, lodging houses, malls, restaurants,  
and other commercial establishments ..... Php2,000.00
- For hospitals, funeral parlors and similar  
operation .....Php3,000.00

Failure to comply with the provisions herein shall result in the cancellation of business permits for commercial establishments.

**Rule 16.** The CSMC shall review implementation of the ordinance in regards to compliance and penalties, and recommend revisions and amendments as needed.

**SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If for any reason or reasons any provision of this Ordinance be declared illegal by a competent court, other provisions which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All Ordinances, resolutions, executive issuances, or rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which provisions are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Ordinance, the same are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 19. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect 15 days after its approval and publication and after the operationalization of the water treatment facility and/or contract of desludging by service providers.

These IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS of ORDINANCE NO. 2009-152 are hereby ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Septage Management Council of the City Government of Zamboanga, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2010 in the City of Zamboanga. This IRR becomes effective upon effectivity of the ordinance as stated in Section 19.

Hon. CELSO L. LOBREGAT  
City Mayor and Chairman

ENGR. REYNALDO S. GONZALES  
City Environment & Natural Resources Officer and Secretariat

HON. LILIA M. NUÑO  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Health & Sanitation,  
Sangguniang Panlungsod of  
Zamboanga City

HON. ABDURAHMAN B. NUÑO  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment & Natural  
Resources, Sangguniang Panlungsod of  
Zamboanga City and President of *Liga  
ng mga Barangay* of Zamboanga City

DR. RODELIN M. AGBULOS  
City Health Officer

MELINDA S. CABATO  
City Planning and Development  
Coordinator

ENGR. LUIS VICENTE L. DESPALO  
City Engineer

SOLEDAD L. LI  
City Treasurer

CORAZON I. CAIRO  
City Licensing Officer

LEONARDO REY D. VASQUEZ  
General Manager  
Zamboanga City Water District  
(ZCWD)

ENGR. ALAN B. DE GALA  
Regional Director  
Environmental Management Bureau-  
Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources, Region IX

DR. ARISTEDES C. TAN, MD, MPH  
CESO III, Regional Director  
Department of Health (DOH), Center  
for Health and Development -  
Zamboanga Peninsula

ENGR. MAXIMO V. ORTEGA  
President  
Pollution Control Officer Association  
of Region IX, Inc. (PCOA, Inc.)

ENGR. GEORGE G. LEDESMA  
President  
Industrial Group of Zamboanga, Inc.