



# HAMILTON COUNTY **PUBLIC HEALTH**

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

## **HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT PLUMBING REGULATION 4-2014**

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE, INSTALLATION  
AND INSPECTION OF PLUMBING AND MEDICAL GAS  
WITHIN THE HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

**Hamilton County General Health District  
250 William Howard Taft Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219**

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*INTENT: The purpose of these Regulations is to protect public health, safety and the environment through preventative measures and timely correction of all public health issues related to plumbing and medical gas systems.*

*SCOPE: These Regulations establish definitions; set minimum standards for installation, maintenance, testing and replacement of plumbing and medical gas systems; and provide enforcement for violations of these Regulations.*

*Section 3709.21 of the Ohio Revised Code gives the Board of Health of a general health district the authority to adopt regulations for the public health, the prevention or restriction of disease, and the prevention, abatement or suppression of nuisances.*

## SECTION 01: DEFINITIONS

The definitions section of the Ohio Plumbing Code shall be used when available. The following definitions, which are not included in the Ohio Plumbing Code, shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of these regulations:

- A. "Board of Health" means the board of health of a city, general health district, combined health district or the authority having the duties of a board of health under section 3709.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- B. "Force main" is that part of the building sewer which is pumped by the sewage ejector and connects to the public sewer system, private sewer system or private sewage treatment system.
- C. "Hamilton County General Health District" or "HCGHD" means general health district as created by or under authority of Chapter 3709 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- D. "Health Commissioner" means the individual occupying the office created by section 3709.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, or the health commissioner's authorized representative.
- E. "Lower Rough Inspection" is an inspection of all plumbing below the foundation or slab and will be covered by the ground or slab.
- F. "Medical Gas Inspector" is an inspector who has a current American Society of Sanitary Engineers (A.S.S.E.) 6020 medical gas inspector certification.
- G. "Medical Gas" is an assembly of equipment and piping for the distribution of medical gases including but not limited to oxygen, nitrous oxide, compressed air, carbon dioxide, and helium.
- H. "Medical Gas Permit Holder" is a contractor who is responsible for obtaining the permit for medical gas.

- I. "Owner" is any person who, alone or jointly or severally with others:
  - a. has legal title to any real property, with or without accompanying actual possession thereof; or
  - b. has charge, care or control of any real property, as owner, authorized agent, representative of the owner, executor, executrix, administrator, trustee, or guardian of the estate of the owner.
- J. "Plumbing Inspector" means any employee who is a certified Plumbing Inspector by the Ohio Department of Commerce and is assigned to the enforcement of section 3703.01 to 3703.09 of the Revised Code. This includes employees enforcing ordinances, resolutions, or regulations regulating plumbing or prescribing the character thereof in municipal corporation and other political subdivisions.
- K. "Private sewer" means a sewer privately owned and not directly controlled by public authority.
- L. "Property lines" are the borders of a piece of real estate to which a person has legal title.
- M. "Specialty Contractor" is contractor restricted to installing only outside water service mains and outside sanitary sewer piping.
- N. "Upper rough inspection" is an inspection of all plumbing usually above ground and concrete slab that will be concealed behind walls, ceilings and floors.
- O. "Water course" is a natural or made channel through which water flows; such as a stream, river, or brook, and as defined by the Hamilton County soil survey as being perennial

## SECTION 02: REGISTRATION & BOND

- A. Registration and bonding is required to install, repair or modify a plumbing system in Hamilton County General Health District's jurisdiction. You are required to be registered and bonded with the Health District. Plumbing systems are inclusive of public building or places as used in Section 3781.06 of the Ohio Revised Code and in newly constructed or remodel in a single, two or three family dwelling. Plumbing systems shall be installed, maintained, tested and inspected in accordance with this regulation and applicable provisions of the current Ohio Plumbing Code, as may be subsequently amended, which is hereby incorporated by reference into this regulation and made a part of this regulation.
- B. Each person, firm or corporation installing plumbing within the Hamilton County General Health District shall file a bond with surety to be approved by the Board of Health, Hamilton County General Health District in the sum of ten thousand dollars, and

shall be conditioned that the installer or owner and that said installer or owner making such installations will conform to all rules and regulations and orders of the Hamilton County Board of Health and State of Ohio.

- C. All contractors obtaining a commercial or residential plumbing permit must show proof of their Ohio Plumbing Contractor's License issued by the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board except those obtaining a homeowners permit. Contractors registered as a specialty contractor are permitted to install water and sewer lines on the exterior of a structure without an Ohio Plumbing Contractor's License.
- D. To obtain a homeowners permit you must reside within Hamilton County General Health District's jurisdiction and meet the following requirements:
  - a. Be the owner and live in the single family residence where the work will be completed;
  - b. Continue to live in the single family residence for one year after the work is completed;
  - c. Complete the work without the paid assistance of others. Any other person completing work on this project is required to be bonded and registered with Hamilton County General Health District;
  - d. Any person, firm, or corporation working for, with or under the direction of this homeowner must be registered and bonded. In addition they are required to meet any additional requirements of the local water purveyor and or other jurisdiction in which work is occurring; and
  - e. Failure to meet the requirements of the homeowner's permit shall result in the permit being voided.
- E. Each person, firm, or corporation obtaining a medical gas permit must be registered in Hamilton County as a medical gas permit holder.
  - a. A bond from the Hamilton County General Health District to obtain a medical gas permit or registration is not required.

### SECTION 03: PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS

- A. Each person, firm, or corporation, engaged in the installation of plumbing, plumbing systems, and rainwater harvesting systems, shall apply for and receive a permit from the Hamilton County General Health District. The permit shall be obtained prior to commencing the installation of the plumbing except in the case of an emergency repair or replacement. Emergencies shall include the replacement of a water heater, water line, or sanitary sewage piping. In the case of an emergency, a plumbing application for a plumbing permit shall be submitted within 72 hours of the commencement of work.

- B. All connections to the potable water shall be protected, in accordance with the Ohio plumbing code and as required by the local water purveyor and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), shall be protected by an approved backflow device when servicing a non-potable source.
  - a. Lawn irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems shall be protected by a pressure type vacuum breaker or a reduced pressure principle backflow device.
  - b. Backflow prevention and cross-connection methods shall be in accordance with the Backflow prevention & cross-connection control manual from the Ohio Department of Commerce.
- C. Plumbing permits are required for the following installations and replacements of plumbing systems:
  - a. All plumbing fixtures, interior storm conductors or leaders, water heaters, rain water harvesting systems, floor drains, sump pumps, neutralization tanks, garbage disposals, dishwashers and other water supplied devices or system of drainage. Plumbing permits are required to replace any of the fore named or to relocate any soil waste, vent, leader line or clear water sump pump.
  - b. Connection to an existing building to a sanitary sewer system and / or abandon a septic tank.
  - c. Connection to the public water supply and abandon a private water system.
  - d. All plumbing installations or modifications on a manufactured home or house trailer.
  - e. Sanitary sewer work located on private property that is not subjected to the M.S.D. regulations or HCGHD Regulation 529.
  - f. A permit is required for any connection or modification to the potable water distribution system or water service pipe beyond the end point that is within the authority of the local water purveyor including the containment backflow preventer assembly
- D. The applicant for a plumbing permit shall complete forms supplied by the Hamilton County General Health District indicating the design of the proposed installation or alteration and furnish such information as indicated on the application along with a isometric drawing of all waste, storm, vent and water lines on the inside of the application, application of building permit, or sewer permits, or their application numbers, and any other pertinent information requested.
- E. Plumbing permit application will not be processed until required building permits have been obtained and a building permit number has been issued.

- F. On a new building, no upper rough inspection will be performed until a sanitary sewer or sewage treatment system permit has been issued and approved, unless approved by the Health Commissioner or designee.
- G. A permit shall be issued when plans, specifications, and isometric drawings showing the proposed work in necessary detail has been submitted to Hamilton County General Health District and a plumbing inspector reviews and approves the plans.
  - a. A plumbing permit is valid for the period of 18 eighteen months from the purchase date or from the last approved inspection conducted, whichever is greater.
    - i. A permit may be extended by the Health Commissioner or his/her designee for an additional 6 months and will be charged a fee in accordance with the plumbing fee schedule as determined by the board of health.
  - b. The transfer of a plumbing permit shall conform to the following procedures:
    - i. Only the property owner may transfer a plumbing permit.
    - ii. The property owner shall complete the permit transfer form releasing the original contractor of all responsibility of the plumbing permit.
    - iii. The owner, if transferring the permit from a contractor to a homeowners permit or new bonded and registered contractor, accepts all future responsibility of all plumbing performed prior to and after transfer of permit.
- H. If a permit is denied, the applicant may submit revised plans, specifications, and isometric drawings without payment of additional fees.
- I. The following exceptions do not require a plumbing permit unless otherwise regulated as rainwater harvesting:
  - a. The cleaning out of drainage lines where it is not necessary to fracture piping to gain access.
  - b. The replacement of washers, faucets and valves, repairs to existing fixtures and parts thereof, and the repairing of leaks in waste, vent, rain leader or water supply line, which do not require changes in the piping to or from the plumbing fixture.
  - c. Installation or replacement of mechanical piping for manufacturing purposes and shall include but is not limited to
    - i. the extension of water supply line from an existing opening left in supply

- line to equipment used in process and manufacturing;
  - ii. condensers for cooling equipment excluding drinking water;
  - iii. cooling water for air compressors and turbines;
  - iv. make up water for steam and hot water heating equipment and hydraulic testing equipment; and
  - v. All the above mechanical piping shall be protected against backflow with the appropriate backflow device and permitted and tested in accordance with this regulation.
- d. Any attachments, valves, water meters, meter settings, backflow devices beyond the end point that is within the authority of the local water purveyor including the containment backflow preventer assembly.

#### SECTION 04: FEES

- A. All fees for applications, tests, and inspections shall be authorized by the Board of Health.

#### SECTION 05: MEDICAL GAS SYSTEMS

- A. A medical gas permit is required when installing any medical gas piping systems including new construction, remodel of any building, residential, or commercial.

The design, installation, and testing of medical gas and vacuum piping systems within the scope of the national fire protection association standard, section 1-1 of the “NFPA 99C, Gas and Vacuum Systems,” is governed by the national fire protection association standard.

Installers, inspectors, verifiers, construction contracting maintenance personnel, and instructors for the design, installation, and testing of medical gas and vacuum piping systems shall obtain certification by the American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE) in accordance with the ASSE series 6000 requirements.

Only brazers who have been qualified under the requirements of ASSE 6010 and certified with the Ohio Department of Commerce shall be permitted to braze joints in medical gas and vacuum pipeline systems (ASSE Series 600/10-4.9.2).

- B. Hamilton County General Health District plumbing division will permit and inspect medical gas systems per the Ohio Plumbing Code. No part of any medical gas system shall be covered until it has been inspected by a medical gas inspector, tested and approved.

- a. A medical gas permit is valid for the period of 18 eighteen months from the purchase date or from the last approved inspection conducted, whichever is greater.
- b. The transfer of an medical gas permit from a registered contractor to a new contractor shall conform to the following procedures
  - i. Transfer form from the owner of the permit releasing the former contractor of all responsibility and requesting transfer to the new contractor. The new applicant accepts transfer of existing permit assumes responsibility of all medical gas piping performed prior to and after transfer of permit.
- C. If a registered or bonded contractor has outstanding plumbing or medical gas fees, no new plumbing or medical gas permits shall be issued until balance is paid in full.

#### SECTION 06: INSPECTIONS

- A. All inspections shall be performed by a plumbing inspector in accordance with the current Ohio Plumbing Code and the rules and regulations of the Hamilton County General Health District.
- B. Water service lines for fire protection shall be the jurisdiction of the building department or other governing authority, beyond the end point that is within authority of the local water purveyor including the containment backflow preventer assembly.
- C. The permit holder is responsible for scheduling inspections of all work completed. Any failed scheduled inspection that requires a reinspection shall be charged a reinspection fee.
- D. All residential new construction permits shall include up to four inspections. Should additional inspection be required, the standard reinspection fee shall apply for each additional inspection.
- E. All water line inspections shall include one inspection. Should additional inspections be required, the standard reinspection fee shall apply for each additional inspection.
- F. When a facility has both a medical gas and plumbing permit for the same project, a final plumbing inspection will not be conducted until the medical gas system has passed its final gas inspection.

#### SECTION 07: SEWER, WATER SUPPLY, AND CLEAR WATER SUMP PUMP CONSTRUCTION WITH IN PROPERTY LINES:



- A. Building sewers shall be installed at proper elevations to accept all gravity flow of the building drain without the use of pumps or lift stations where the public or private sewer system is of proper evaluation. Storm and/or ground water, including footer and foundation drains shall be excluded from sanitary sewer and sewage treatment systems. Such sanitary sewers shall be installed according to the current rules and regulations of the Metropolitan Sewer District. The fee for such inspection shall be in accordance with the fixture fee schedule, when issued by the Hamilton County General Health District.
- B. All sewer and/or water line work, under the jurisdiction of the Hamilton County General Health District shall be inspected, tested, and approved by the Health District prior to back filling. Pipe fill shall be installed as per the Ohio plumbing code. The water service extension from the meter or water services to or from a building shall be installed at a minimum depth of forty two (42) inches of earth cover. Water service lines shall not be less than three fourths (3/4) inch pipe size. Material shall be noncorrosive and shall be of approved type in accordance with the Ohio plumbing code.
- C. Sewer and water lines that are regulated by Hamilton County General Health District that pass under creeks, streams and similar water courses shall be sleeved a minimum of ten feet past either bank. Sleeves shall be installed without sharp angles or bends, shall be sealed on both ends and concrete placed on top of bedding in accordance with good engineering practices. In some cases, the concrete encasement or ductile iron pipe material may be necessary for sewers.
- D. All pressure forced mains for sanitary sewage are under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Sewer District. When the sanitary sewage ejector pit is located outside, Hamilton County General Health District plumbing division will permit and inspect all piping up to and including the sanitary sewage ejector. Any piping installed after the sewage ejector pit will be permitted and inspected by the Sewer District.
- E. Clear water sumps receiving the discharge from footing tile or perimeter tile be discharged to an evident water course located on individual lots or to roadway ditches or storm sewers where possible. Under no circumstance may the footing tile or perimeter water be discharged to a paved or unpaved street, road, alley, parking lot, side walk, building sewer or sanitary main line. Where the above mentioned locations are not available, owners shall dissipate water from sump pumps on their own property. All discharge points shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from any property line.

#### SECTION 08: RAINWATER HARVESTING:

- A. Rainwater collection, catchment and harvesting devices, such as rain barrels, may be installed outside of a building if both of the following conditions are satisfied:
  - a. Any such devices are equipped with an overflow that meets the requirements of the Ohio Plumbing Code; and
  - b. All collected rainwater remains outside of the building or satisfies the

requirements specified in Section 08 and is in compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-28.

- B. **Harvesting Systems.** Subject to the requirements set forth in the Ohio Plumbing Code, and notwithstanding the requirements for connections to an approved sewer set forth in Ohio Plumbing Code, rainwater harvesting systems shall be permitted to be installed as a non-potable auxiliary water source for use in subsurface irrigation, and other non-potable uses approved by the Hamilton County General Health District. Harvesting systems shall be submitted as an alternative engineered design as listed in the Ohio Plumbing Code and shall comply in all respects with the requirements of Section 08 of this regulation, the Ohio Plumbing Code and other applicable regulations, rules and policies adopted by Sewer Districts, Water Purveyors, Hamilton County General Health District, and shall be subject to all other applicable laws and ordinances not otherwise excepted herein.
- C. **Use of Harvested Water.** The following sections of the IGCC are hereby adopted and incorporated herein in their entirety to ensure the conservation, quality and efficiency of water harvested under Section 08:
- a. IGCC Section 707, "Rainwater Collection and Distribution Systems," is hereby adopted and incorporated herein in its entirety with the following additions, deletions and exceptions:
    - i. References in IGCC Section 707 to "potable water application" and "reclaimed" or "recycled" water shall not be adopted herein and shall not apply in Hamilton County General Health District.
    - ii. IGCC Section 707.11.6, "Disinfection," shall be adopted herein; provided, however, that for purposes of this Section 1105-08 the first sentence of IGCC Section 707.11.6, "Disinfection," shall read as follows: "Where the intended application and initial quality of the collected rainwater requires disinfection or other treatment or both, the collected rainwater shall be disinfected."
    - iii. In addition to the provisions of IGCC Section 707.13, "Operations and maintenance manuals," the following is required: Water Purveyors in Hamilton County reserve the right for a review and approval of operations and maintenance at time of installation and on an annual basis.
    - iv. The requirements in the IGCC Section 707.12.4 are hereby deleted and replaced with the following: "The testing and installation of backflow preventer and backflow valves shall be in accordance with the requirements of Hamilton County General Health District."
    - v. In addition to the provisions of IGCC Section 707.14, "System abandonment," the following is required: Not later than ten days from the date of the abandonment of a system, the owner must send written notice of abandonment to Hamilton County General Health District and the local

water purveyor.

- b. Hamilton County General Health District may conduct an annual inspection of all rainwater harvesting systems for compliance with all applicable codes and regulations and shall be permitted to charge a fee for such inspections to reasonably commensurate with all costs of the inspection.

#### SECTION 09: PENALTIES:

- A. Any person, firm, corporation, plumber or installer who violates any provision of this regulation shall be in violation of Section 3709.21 and subject to the penalties provided by Section 3709.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- B. Late fees for plumbing installations without permits will apply in accordance to plumbing fee schedule.

#### SECTION 10: EFFECT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY

- A. Should any part of this regulation be declared unconstitutional for any reason, the remainder of this regulation shall not be affected thereby.