

Hancock County Combined General Health District Plumbing Regulations

Adopted Pursuit To
Ohio Revised Code 3709.21

By
Hancock County Combined General Health District
Board of Health

on
DATE

HANCOCK COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT PLUMBING REGULATIONS

A REGULATION BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE HANCOCK COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION OF THE PLUMBING INDUSTRY WITHIN THE HANCOCK COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT.

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the Hancock County Combined General Health District Board of Health to assure that persons practicing the profession of plumbing within the district meet minimum standards necessary to preclude injury to persons or property resulting from improper installation or repair of new and/or existing plumbing systems.

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SECTION 2-DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of administering the programs established by this Resolution, the following definitions shall apply to the terms used herein:

“Board of Health” means Board of Health of the Hancock County Combined General Health District as established in accordance with the provisions of Section 3709.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.

“Person” means any individual, partnership, company, firm, trust, corporation, governmental unit, department, bureau, agency or other entity recognized by law.

“Plumber” means any person who engages in the practice of Plumbing, either on a full-time or part-time basis, and who receives compensation for services so performed, regardless of whether such compensation shall be in money or in kind.

“Plumbing Inspector” means any employee of the Board of Health assigned to the enforcement of the Plumbing Provisions of Title 37 of the Ohio Revised Code, and employees enforcing resolutions or regulations regulating plumbing or prescribing the character thereof in the Hancock County Combined General Health District.

All other definitions that apply to the interpretation and enforcement of this regulation can be found in the:

- OHIO BASIC BUILDING CODE PLUMBING SECTION 608 PROTECTION OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY
- OHIO PLUMBING CODE
- NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE
- MANUFACTURERS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION
- CURRENT OHIO MECHANICAL CODE
- OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 6109.13 (WATER CONNECTIONS)
- OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 3745-95 (BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL)
- OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
- AGA/GAMA VENTING STANDARDS
- EPA CROSS CONNECTION MANUAL

SECTION 3-PLUMBING CODE

A regulation establishing standards governing the installation, maintenance, testing, and inspection of all plumbing; establishing a plumbing regulation and its enforcement as a local regulation; adopting the Ohio Plumbing Code, Chapter 4101:3-1 to 3-13, Ohio Building Code, as in effect, by incorporation by reference; requiring a register of persons engaged in the plumbing business and requiring permits and the approval of plans and specifications for plumbing work in order to protect the public health and welfare and to prevent the contamination of water supplies and to provide for the sanitary collection of wastes in the Hancock County Combined General Health District.

- 3.1** All plumbing in or for public buildings or places located in the Hancock County Combined General Health District shall be installed, maintained, tested, and inspected in accordance with this regulation and the provisions of the Ohio Plumbing Code, Chapter 4101:3-1 to 3-13, Ohio Building Code, as in effect, which is hereby incorporated by reference into this regulation and made a part of this regulation; provided, however, this provision shall apply only to the type of public buildings or places for which the Ohio Department of Health has designated and approved the Hancock County Health District to make the plumbing inspection and to issue permits therefor.
- 3.2** All plumbing in single-family, two family, and three-family dwellings in the Hancock County Combined General Health District, shall be installed, maintained, tested and inspected in accordance with these regulations and the applicable provisions of the Ohio Plumbing Code, Chapter 4101:2-51, Ohio Building Code as in effect, which is hereby incorporated by reference into this regulation and made a part of these regulations.

- 3.3 It is the purpose of this regulation to adopt by incorporation by reference the standards and methods regarding plumbing installation, maintenance, testing, and inspection for all plumbing in the Hancock County Combined General Health District as is provided in the Ohio Plumbing Code, Chapter 4101:2-51, Ohio Building Code, as in effect, and to provide as soon as possible, for the proper enforcement of such provisions to protect the public health, to prevent the contamination of water supplies, to provide the sanitary collection of wastes, and to make unnecessary the exercise of this authority by the Ohio Department of Commerce as provided in Section 3703.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4 - REGISTRATION OF PERSONS QUALIFIED TO ENGAGE IN PLUMBING CONTRACTING BUSINESS

- 4.1 Any person engaged in or intending to engage in the plumbing contracting business in the Hancock County Health District, Ohio, after the effective date of this regulation shall make application to the Plumbing Inspector on a form to be provided by the Plumbing Inspector to have his name placed on a register of those qualified to engage in the plumbing contracting business. The application shall contain the name and residence address of the applicant, the name and address of the business which he owns or operates, or with which he is associated or by which he is employed, his claimed status as a master, journeyman, apprentice and such other information as the Plumbing Inspector shall determine will reasonably aid in the administration and enforcement of these regulations.
- 4.2 All new plumbing contractors will be required to have State Certification. A new plumbing contractor is one that has never been registered with the City of Findlay before or any previously registered plumbing contractor who has allowed his registration to expire.
- 4.3 An application for registration to engage in the plumbing contracting business shall be made to the Hancock County Combined General Health District and shall include:

- (1) The registration fee as established by the board of health.
- (2) Proof of Bond that shall establish a contractual relationship with the county or any member of the public for all actual damage caused by an act or omission by such individual registered plumbing contractor, to any property which a political sub-division may own or for which it may be responsible or any member of the public free and harmless from all claims for damages on account of negligence or misfeasance of such registered contractor, and from all cost and expenses growing out of the defense of such claims. Such bond shall be in force from the date of its acceptance and the issuance of registration by the board of health to the end of the period covered by such registration and must be renewed on the re-issue of such registration certificate. The dollar amount of the bond shall be determined by the Board of Health.

Certificate of Liability Insurance-Required of Registered Backflow testing companies with the Hancock County Combined General Health District listed as the certificate holder.

- (3) Proof of continuing education units that must be from State accredited schools or seminars. Credit will also be given for classes held by other licensed professionals, i.e. lawyer, accountant, inspectors, engineers, and manufacturers training seminars provided a certificate of completion and course outline is attached. Continuing education hours required for each plumbing field as stated:
 - (a) Residential Plumbers-three hours of continuing education hours.
 - (b) Journeyman/Apprentice-three hours of continuing education hours.

- 4.4 All registrations shall expire on the thirty-first day of May in the year following their entry and be subject to renewal from year to year as hereinafter provided.
- 4.5 Applications for renewal of registration and for certification of such registration from year to year shall be made in the same manner and accompanied by the same information as required in the case of original application. Registrants should be notified in advance and urged to file renewal applications at least thirty days in advance of expiration of existing certification.
- 4.6 If after review of registrants past year activity it is found that 25% of his work has been red-tagged this person will be called before the plumbing contracting advisory committee to review and discuss these re-inspections. After this review, if deemed necessary, it will be recommended to the Board of Health that this person be put on probation. This probation will be for a set period of one year. During this time any grossly incompetent, serious offense will be grounds for revocation of registration. During the probation any inspections that are under scrutiny may be toured upon this registrants request or by a member of the Board of Health and of the Plumbing Contracting Advisory Committee. The Board of Health may revoke registration based on physical / written evidence.
- 4.6 Transfer of Registration Certificate - No person having procured certificate of registration under this code shall permit or allow the use of his name on the certificate of registration by any other person, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of obtaining a permit to do plumbing contracting work. The penalty is immediate revocation of plumbing contractor's registration for one year. **Exception: Registered Sub-Contractors working under the original permit holder.**
- 4.7 Plumbing Contracting Advisory Committee. "There is hereby created a committee to be known as the "Plumbing Contracting Advisory Committee" consisting of three or five members, who shall serve without compensation and who shall be appointed by the board of health. Members shall be appointed to serve two calendar years and until their successors have been appointed to assume office. The Plumbing Contracting Advisory Committee shall consist of the following:
- A. Three or five registered master plumbers of the county.
 - B. The plumbing inspector of the Health Department shall serve as secretary of the Plumbing Contracting Advisory Committee.

He/she shall keep a record of the activity and actions of the Advisory Committee. The Plumbing Advisory Committee shall meet as needed after appointment of members, shall organize and select a chairman, to advise the Board of Health and the Plumbing Inspector on all plumbing contracting matters that may rise.

- 4.8 Upon recommendation of the Plumbing Contracting Advisory Committee, the board of health may after a hearing, remove the name of any person from the register of persons in the plumbing contracting business who has demonstrated inability or unwillingness to comply with this regulation and the Ohio Plumbing Code, Chapter 4101:3-1 to 4101:3-13, Ohio Building Code, as in effect.

Such person may have his name reinstated on the register of persons in the plumbing contracting business after at least one (1) year by the board of health upon recommendation of the Plumbing Inspector after satisfactory demonstration of ability and willingness to comply with this regulation and the Ohio Plumbing Code, Chapter 4101:3-1 to 4101:3-13, Ohio Building Code as in effect.

- 4.9 The Plumbing Inspector shall maintain a register, kept up to date, of all persons who are currently qualified by registration to engage in the plumbing contracting business in Hancock County, Ohio.

SECTION 5 - PERMIT REQUIRED: APPROVAL OF PLANS: FEES

- 5.1 No plumbing work shall be done in any building or place or dwelling, except in case of leaks or repairs in existing equipment, until plans and specifications for such work have been submitted and approved and a permit has been obtained from the Plumbing Inspector. However, this provision shall apply only to the types of public buildings or places for which the Ohio Department of Commerce has designated and approved the Hancock County Combined General Health District to make the inspections and to issue permits to all dwellings.
- 5.2 The application to the Plumbing Inspector for a permit to do work shall be made on forms provided by the health department and shall be accompanied by the plans and specifications required by this regulation.
- 5.3 No permit shall be issued to any person by the Plumbing Inspector to do work whose name is not on the register maintained by the Plumbing Inspector as provided in Section 4 of this regulation, except to the owner of a dwelling to personally perform the work on any dwelling which he owns and will reside in for at least 1 year.
Exception: Speculation house owners must be registered plumbing contractors to do their own work.
- 5.4 The plans and specifications required by this regulation shall contain sufficient detail and information to permit a clear understanding and an intelligent review of the proposed work. When such plans and specifications do not contain the necessary information and details or if after review and investigation, alterations or revisions are required, data shall be submitted upon notification by the Plumbing Inspector.
- 5.5 After review of the plans and specifications submitted, one standard size copy (8 ½ x 11) shall be retained and filed in the office of the health district, and the other copy shall be returned to the person who submitted such plans and specifications. The returned plans shall be marked to show the approval or disapproval of such plans. No work shall be installed except in exact accordance with the approved plans. When any change or modification is deemed necessary or desirable, such change or modification shall be incorporated in the revised plans and specifications and shall be submitted to the Chief Inspector in the same manner as is required for the original plans.
- 5.6 Residential and commercial plan review costs will be established by the Board of Health.
- 5.7 All new residential and commercial work must have plans that accompany the isometric drawing.
- 5.8 Each application to the health department for a permit to do work shall be accompanied by the fees established by the Board of Health. Submitted Permits are non-refundable for any reason.
- 5.9 The application for a permit to do work and the plans and specifications submitted shall be acted upon by the Plumbing Inspector within thirty days after date of receipt.
- 5.10 There will be a fee for re-inspections as established by the Board of Health.

SECTION 6-PENALTIES

- 6.1 Any person who violates any provision of this regulation shall be in violation of Chapters 3781. and 3791. of the Ohio Revised Code.
- 6.2 Anyone who fails to obtain a permit before work begins will be assessed a doubling of the permit fee on residential, for commercial it will be assessed an additional 20% of plumbing permit fee.

SECTION 7- BACKFLOW / CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

In the State of Ohio there are two Regulatory Agencies that oversee the potable water supply.

- 7.1** Authority in Ohio: The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has the authority over the public water system from the source to the service connection, which is defined in Ohio Administrative Code as the outlet side of the water meter.

The water supplier acts as the enforcement officer for the Ohio EPA. The water supplier uses the containment principle of backflow prevention to protect the public water supply from backflow. The containment principle backflow prevention assembly remains under the authority of the water supplier even though it may be installed inside the building.

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Industrial Compliance Division has the authority over the consumer's water distribution system, which begins at the water meter and includes all piping and fixtures in the building.

The local plumbing official acts as the enforcement officer for the Ohio Department of Commerce. The plumbing official uses the isolation principle of backflow prevention to protect the consumer's water system. The plumbing inspection authorities have a responsibility of inspecting the consumer's water distribution system to ensure that all cross-connections within the premises are protected from backflow. The plumbing inspection authorities are responsible for the inspection of the consumer's potable water system and ultimately share a liability with the owner and the design professional for the protection of the internal water distribution system. The plumbing inspection authorities meet this responsibility by inspecting all new construction to ensure that all cross-connections are properly protected. They then must review the plans for all plumbing permits to ensure that no new cross-connections are installed without the appropriate protection.

- 7.2** For the protection of a potable water system from contamination due to backflow of contaminants through the water service connection. To protect a potable water supply from contamination or pollution by isolating within the consumer's water system contaminants or pollutants which could backflow through the service connection into the potable water system. To be determined by an authorized representative if a cross-connection or backflow situation is possible the consumer shall be given notice to install such approved backflow prevention assembly at each service connection to the premises. The consumer shall immediately install such approved assembly or assemblies at his own expense, and failure, refusal or inability on the part of the consumer to install such assembly or assemblies immediately shall constitute grounds for discontinuing water service to the premises until such assembly or assemblies have been installed.

- 7.3** Inspection and Maintenance. It shall be the duty of the property owner at any premises on which backflow prevention assemblies required by regulation are installed to have inspection, tests and overhaul made at least every twelve months or more often where inspections indicate a need. Tests are performed by an approved state certified backflow tester. The registered certified backflow tester must turn in the backflow test and the required test fees together at the time of submission. New backflow installations will be filed on a plumbing permit by a registered plumbing contractor and will be inspected by the Hancock County Combined General Health District upon completion of install and test.

CHAPTER 8 – EFFECT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY

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