

CHAPTER 160

PLUMBING CODE

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160.01 PURPOSE. It is the purpose of this chapter to adopt a complete plumbing code, including provisions for the inspection and regulation of plumbing installations, issuance of permits, and collection of fees, and to provide penalties for violations of this chapter in order to protect public safety, health, and welfare.

160.02 SCOPE. The provisions of this chapter apply to and govern the plumbing system, which includes all potable water supply and distribution pipes from the City main, all plumbing fixtures and traps, all drainage and vent pipes and all building drains and house sewers, including their respective joints and connections, devices, receptacles, and appurtenances within the property lines of the premises and shall include potable water piping, potable water treating or using equipment, fuel gas, piping, water heaters, and vents for the same. For the purpose of this section, the term “plumbing fixture” means an approved type installed receptacle, device, or appliance which is supplied with water or which receives liquid or liquid-borne wastes and discharges such wastes into the drainage system to which it may be directly or indirectly connected. Industrial or commercial tanks, vats, and similar processing equipment are not plumbing fixtures when and as otherwise provided for elsewhere in this chapter.

160.03 WORK TO CONFORM. All plumbing work shall be performed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

160.04 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE ADOPTED. The *Uniform Plumbing Code*, 2000 Edition, as published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, and which includes appendices “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” “E,” and “G,” is hereby adopted as though fully set forth and is incorporated and made a part of this section by reference. A copy of this chapter, certified as required by law, and a copy of the *Uniform Plumbing Code* adopted by this chapter shall at all times be on file in the office of the Clerk.

160.05 AMENDMENTS GENERALLY. This chapter, including the *Uniform Plumbing Code*, shall not be altered, repealed, or amended except as provided by law. The *Uniform Plumbing Code* as adopted by this chapter shall be subject to this provision, and alterations of the *Uniform Plumbing Code* by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials shall have no force and effect unless affirmed by the Council as required by law.

160.06 SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS. The following additions and changes are hereby made to the 2000 Edition of the *Uniform Plumbing Code* as adopted by this chapter and all references to sections or chapters in this section refer to specific sections or chapters of the 2000 Edition of the *Uniform Plumbing Code*:

1. Administrative Authority. Whenever the term “administrative authority” is used in this code it shall mean the City Building Inspector or an authorized representative.

2. Underground Water Service. Section 203(f) shall be amended to read as follows:

All underground water service pipe shall be of type "K" copper.

3. Cleanouts. Section 406 is amended to add a paragraph (j) as follows:

Horizontal drain lines from sinks and urinals may have one long turn elbow in lieu of cleanout.

4. Vertical Wet Venting. Section 613. Vertical Wet Venting, is amended to delete subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) and in lieu thereof enact the following:

a. A single bathroom group located on the same floor level may be group vented, providing that the highest fixture trap of such a group is not more than four (4) feet above the lowest fixture trap, but such installation shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. One fixture of two or fewer units may drain into the vent of a 1½-inch bathtub waste pipe.

2. Two fixtures of two or fewer units may drain into the vent of a 2-inch bathtub waste serving two or fewer tubs providing that they drain into the vent at the same level.

3. Double bathroom group, where bathrooms or water closets or other fixtures are located on opposite sides of a wall or partition or are adjacent to each other within the prescribed distance, such fixtures may have a common soil or waste pipe and common vent. Water closets having a common soil and vent stack shall drain into the stack at the same level.

4. On the lower floors of multistory building, the waste pipe from one or two lavatories may be used as a wet vent for one or two bathtubs or showers provided that:

(a) The wet vent and its extension to the vent stack are two inches in diameter.

(b) Each water closet below the top floor is individually re-vented.

5. Basement closets, or floor drains, may be vented by the waste line from a first floor sink or lavatory having a 1½-inch waste and vent pipe.

6. A group of fixtures, consisting of one bathroom group and a kitchen sink or combination fixture may be installed without individual fixture vents, in a one-story building or on the top floor of a building, providing that the highest fixture trap of such a group is not more than 4 feet above the lowest fixture trap.

7. When fixtures other than water closets or floor drains discharge downstream from a water closet, each fixture connecting downstream shall be individually vented, except as in subsection 8.

8. No vents will be required on a backwater valve, a subsoil catch basin trap, or a 3-inch basement floor drain, or a water closet, provided its drain branches into the house drain on the sewer side at a distance of 5 feet or more from the base of the stack and the branch line to such floor drain or water closet is not more than 12 feet in length.

5. Traps Protected by Vent Pipes. Section 702. Traps Protected by Vent Pipes, is amended to delete subsection (b) and in lieu thereof enact the following:

Each fixture trap shall have a protecting vent so located that the developed length of the trap arm from the trap weir to the inner edge of the vent shall be within the distance given in the following table:

HORIZONTAL DISTANCE OF TRAP ARMS

<u>Trap Arm</u>	<u>Distance Trap to Vent</u>
1¼ inches	5 feet
1½ inches	6 feet
2 inches	8 feet
3 inches	12 feet
4 inches	12 feet

6. Sewer Required. Section 1101(d). Change two hundred (200) to three hundred (300).

7. Cleanouts. Section 1107. Cleanouts, is amended to add a paragraph (g) to read as follows:

(g) There shall be a cleanout near the junction of the building drain and building sewer or a cleanout with Y branch inside the building wall unless the cleanout at the base of the stack is within five feet of the point where the sewer enters the building and in such case the stack cleanout will be sufficient.

8. Fees. Any and all fees associated with this chapter shall be set by resolution of the City Council, the fee schedule contained in the adopted version of the *International Building Code* notwithstanding.

160.07 CONFLICTS. If portions of this chapter are found to be at variance or inconsistent with the *Uniform Plumbing Code* adopted by this chapter, the variance or inconsistency shall first be reconciled; however, should such variance between portions of this chapter and *Uniform Plumbing Code* be irreconcilable, the portion of the *Uniform Plumbing Code* shall control and govern.

160.08 CORRECTION OF DEFECTS.

1. When a complaint in writing is made by an owner, agent or lessee in regard to a licensed plumbing contractor's work that a sewer or water connection is faulty or defective, the master plumber, under whose bond such work has been done, within one year of such construction, shall be notified in writing by the Building Inspector to correct such faulty or defective work within ten (10) days from date of such notification. In the event that the owner, agent, or lessee shall have such work corrected on such faulty or defective sewer or water connection before the expiration of the period of time specified in such notification, such action shall be deemed a waiver of right of any damages sustained by such faulty or defective work.

2. When the master plumber so notified to correct such faulty or defective work has complied with such notification, and when, upon examination of such faulty or defective work, it is found that the cause for such correction shall have originated from other causes than faulty or defective construction, the owner, agent, or lessee filing such complaint shall pay for all the cost of said work caused by such complaint, and shall not be entitled to any damages or attorney fees.

3. Should the property owner be dissatisfied with the determination by the contractor and/or the Building Inspector as to the cause of the plumbing problem, then and in that event the property owner shall have the right to commence an action upon such bond in his or her own name without joining the City to recover the costs of such reconstruction and damages sustained thereby, and in case the property owner recovers damages therefor, is entitled also to recover a reasonable attorney's fee for the prosecution of such action.

160.09 EXEMPTIONS. The following activities are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

1. The installation, alteration, or repair of potable water systems owned and operated by the City for which a set of plans and construction specifications have been prepared by the City Engineer;

2. The installation, alteration, or repair of the public sewer system, which includes both sanitary and storm sewer, owned and operated by the City for which a set of plans and construction specifications have been prepared by the City Engineer, or which have been prepared under the direction and approval of the City Engineer;

3. Any work involved in the manufacturing or testing of plumbing fixtures or equipment but not including permanent plumbing fixtures or equipment;

4. No permit or license shall be required by an industry, gas utility, commercial building owner, or a manager of properties who employs a regular full-time employee who, in the course of said employee's duties, does plumbing maintenance work for that industry, gas utility, commercial building owner, or manager of properties for the following plumbing maintenance work inside the property line: the repairing of leaks or clearing of stoppage in soil, waste, gas, water or vent pipes, valves, drains, traps or fixtures and the replacement of the same with new, approved materials in any part or parts thereof.

160.10 APPLICABILITY OF STATE CODE. This chapter and the *Uniform Plumbing Code, 2000 Edition*, adopted by this chapter shall not be construed to supersede the minimum requirements of the *State Plumbing Code*, rules and regulations of the State Department of Health governing the installation of plumbing published by the State, except that the higher and more stringent, but not lower, standards as set forth in the *State Plumbing Code* will be established as the minimum requirements under this chapter.

160.11 BOARD OF APPEALS.

1. Any person feeling aggrieved by an order or ruling of the Building Inspector shall have the right to appeal from such order or ruling in the following manner:

A. By appealing such rule or order of the Building Inspector by causing to be served on the Mayor or Clerk a notice in writing of the intention to appeal within 30 days after the person feeling so aggrieved has been served with notice of the rule or order in question.

B. Such appeal shall contain the following:

(1) The nature of the dispute or disagreement that the aggrieved party has with the Building Inspector.

(2) The location of the property in question.

(3) The date, as nearly as can be determined, that the rule or order was made.

2. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Mayor shall appoint an ad hoc appeal board which shall consist of three members who have a background and knowledge of the building trade. No member may have an interest, direct or indirect, in the outcome of the matter to be considered.

3. An aggrieved party who has filed an appeal shall have the right to object to individual members of the appeal board. Such objection must be made within five days after the appeal board has been named and the aggrieved party has been so informed. The aggrieved party shall state to the Mayor the member or members of the appeal board that said party objects to and the reasons therefor. Valid objections shall consist of the following grounds:

A. That the appeal board member has an interest in the outcome of the litigation;

B. That the appeal board member cannot serve as a fair and impartial hearing officer;

C. That the appeal board member in question does not have the necessary background, experience, and training to be qualified to serve.

If the Mayor determines that such an objection is valid, then the Mayor shall appoint another person who is qualified to serve on the appeal board. The party feeling aggrieved shall have the same right to object to new appointees as to original appointees and as set forth herein. In the event that the Mayor does not accept the objection to appointment of an appeal board member, that member shall serve. Both the Building Inspector and the party feeling aggrieved by the Building Inspector's rule or order shall have the right to suggest names of potential members to

the Mayor for consideration as appeal board members. The Mayor shall not be bound or obligated to accept these nominations.

4. The appeal board shall set a time and place for a hearing on an appeal filed and at such hearing shall hear arguments and evidence that either the aggrieved party or the Building Inspector desires to present. Within 30 days after their appointment, the appeal board shall hold the hearing as prescribed by this section and within 20 days after the date of the hearing, the person appealing shall be notified in writing of the decision of the appeal board.

5. The appeal board shall have the right to reverse, suspend, modify, or uphold the rules and orders of the Building Inspector. They may grant in their discretion the aggrieved party an opportunity to comply with the rules and orders as upheld, suspended, modified, or reversed.

6. The Building Inspector shall, upon being informed of the appeal board's decision, take such action as is required by this Code of Ordinances and the laws of the State.

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