

§20-10 Glossary.

For the purposes of "The Rules Governing and Restricting the Use and Supply of Water", the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetically objectionable. A condition which could be objectionable to other water consumers, but would not adversely affect human health. Substances such as food-grade dyes, hot water, and stagnant water from fire lines in which no chemical additives are used may result in aesthetically objectionable conditions.

Air gap. The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening from any pipe or faucet supplying water to a tank, plumbing fixture, or other device, and the flood level rim of the receptacle, which shall be at least double the diameter of the supply pipe.

Applicant. Any person applying for a permit pursuant to these Rules.

AMR—Automatic Meter Reading. The use of radio or telephone-based technology to read water meters.

ANSI. The American National Standards Institute.

ASCII. American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

ASTM. The American Society for Testing Materials.

Automatic water regulating device. A self regulating valve or other device, the purpose of which shall be to limit the maximum use of City water on air conditioning and refrigeration units that do not have a water conserving device to 1.5 gpm per ton of refrigeration or air conditioning.

AWWA. The American Water Works Association.

Backflow prevention device. An approved air gap, reduced pressure zone (RPZ) device, or double check valve assembly (DCV) used to contain potential contamination within a facility.

Backflow/Backsiphonage. The reversal of normal flow in a system caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the supply piping.

Ball valve. A valve capable of regulating, stopping or starting flow with a one-quarter (90°) turn of the valve by means of a movable ball which fits in a spherical seat.

BCS. Bureau of Customer Services.

Booster system. A pumped system used to deliver water at a higher pressure within a building.

Building. An enclosed structure having a specific block and lot (or tax sub-lot) and a separate entry from the street or an outdoor area.

City. The City of New York.

City water. Water supplied by the City of New York.

City water main. A water main owned and maintained by the City of New York under the jurisdiction of the Department.

Combined service. A water service which supplies both domestic and fire suppressions end uses and the fire protection requirements exceed the domestic demand and determine the size of the service.

Commissioner. The Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Completed meter permit. A meter permit returned to the Department that indicates the meter size, type, serial number, remote identification number, meter and remote receptacle location, and date of installation that has been signed and sealed by the licensed plumber and lists the licensed plumber's business address.

Cross connection. A physical connection or arrangement between two separate piping systems where one system contains potable water; the other contains steam, gas, a chemical, or water of questionable safety, and there may be a flow from one system to the other.

Curb valve. A shutoff valve on the service pipe in the sidewalk area outside the building, generally located eighteen (18) inches from the curb.

Customer. Any person to whom City water is supplied.

Day. Except as otherwise stated, day shall refer to calendar day.

DDC. New York City Department of Design and Construction.

Department or DEP. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Distribution piping. All piping downstream of the water meter setting.

DOT. New York City Department of Transportation.

Degree of hazard. The potential of a facility to cause contamination of the public water supply. A facility may be rated Hazardous, Aesthetically Objectionable or Non-Hazardous.

Department. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

Detector assembly. A device installed in a water service pipe, in lieu of a meter, which indicates that flow has occurred.

Disinfection. Chlorination in accordance with methods approved by the Department.

Domestic service with sprinkler heads. A domestic service sized for domestic demands which has been approved by the Department of Buildings to supply a limited number of fire sprinkler heads.

Domestic use. Water consumed for purposes other than extinguishing fire.

Double check detector assembly. A device consisting of two (2) single independently acting check valves, suitable connections for testing the water tightness of each valve, and an indicator that shows whether flow has occurred from the water service pipe into the premises housed together as one unit.

Double check valve assembly. A device consisting of two (2) single independently acting check valves, suitable connections for testing the water tightness of each valve, and inlet control valve and an outlet control valve housed together as one unit.

Encoder-Register. A device from which electronic meter reading data can be obtained from the meter semiautomatically and at a remote location.

Fee. A charge determined by the New York City Water Board.

Fire department. The New York City Fire Department.

Fire meter. A water meter used to monitor consumption by sprinklers or other fire protection systems.

Fire pump. A pump installed on a service pipe to insure adequate flow for purposes of fire protection.

Fire service. A service pipe that supplies water exclusively to a fire protection system.

Fixture units. A measure of the probable hydraulic demand on the water supply by various types of plumbing fixtures.

Flood level rim. The edge of the receptacle from which water overflows.

Flushometer valve. A device which discharges a predetermined quantity of water to fixtures for flushing purposes and is actuated by direct water pressure.

Gooseneck. An extra three (3) to five (5) feet of water service pipe installed to the right of the corporation stop (tap) when facing the corporation stop (tap). (See Appendix Figure #2).

G.P.M. (gpm). The rate of flow of water in a service pipe, or through a meter or a pump, measured in gallons per minute.

Hazardous facility. A facility in which substances may be present that may endanger the health of other customers if introduced into the public water system. Examples include: laboratories, sewage treatment plants, chemical plants, hospitals, and mortuaries.

House tank (roof tank). An elevated water storage tank used to feed domestic and/or fire systems, which is usually located on the roof.

Hydrant. A standard New York City fire hydrant.

I.D. The inside diameter of a pipe.

Internal water main. A water main constructed by a private entity in private property and not in a mapped street, record street or a street for which an opinion of dedication has been issued. Internal water mains are under the jurisdiction of the Department from the City or private water main up to and including the meter.

Internal fire protection system. A fire pump system, a sprinkler system or a standpipe system.

Irrigation system. Piping used to supply water to vegetation.

Licensed master plumber. A plumber licensed by the City agency having jurisdiction over such licenses to perform plumbing work within New York City.

Mapped street. A street that appears on the official map of New York City.

Meter. An instrument for measuring amounts of water consumed.

Meter register. The system component that converts the movement of the meter's impeller, turbine, or disc into an electronic signal or display. This component consists of a meter register and a signal (data) encoder assembly, and is assembled as either a single unit, or as separate units to be mounted on the meter.

Meter set date. The date the meter is installed.

Meter setter/resetter. A shop or factory-fabricated set of piping, valves and an electrical continuity bar installed as a unit designed to hold a water meter of two (2) inches or less in diameter.

New York City Water Board. A corporate municipal instrumentality of the State of New York established by Chapter 515 of the Laws of 1984 which is authorized to establish and collect fees, rates and other service charges for use of, or for services furnished by, the New York City water and sewer systems.

Non-turf plants. Plants other than a lawn.

Nozzle. A spring loaded self-closing device used for controlling the flow of water from a hose.

Offset swing joint. An installation consisting of three (3) lengths of pipe and four (4) elbows which are installed in lieu of a gooseneck. (See Appendix Figure #2.)

OSHA. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States Department of Labor.

OS & Y valve. The outside screw and yoke valve used on fire lines.

Person. An individual, partnership, company, corporation, association, organization, governmental agency, administration, department, any other group of individuals, or an officer or an employee thereof.

Pit meter. A water meter installed in an outside pit or vault.

Private water main. A water main constructed by a private person in the bed of a final mapped street or record street.

Professional engineer. An engineer licensed by the New York State Education Department to practice professional engineering in New York State.

psi. The static pressure of water within a closed piping system, or the loss of water pressure due to flow through a piping system, flow control devices or flow measuring devices, measured in pounds per square inch.

Record street. A street that appears on the Tax Map of the City but may not be a mapped street.

Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) Device. A minimum of two (2) independently acting check valves, with an automatically operated pressure differential relief valve located between the two (2) check valves.

Registered architect. A person licensed by the New York State Education Department to practice architecture in New York State.

Relay. Replacement of an entire water service pipe without replacement of the corresponding corporation stop (tap) or wet connection.

Remote receptacle. A system component at a location away from the meter that receives the probe of a portable visual-display unit, or a portable meter reading unit.

Rodding. The installation of steel rods in order to secure and prevent movement of joints, valves, caps, plugs, fittings and appurtenances.

Sealed Building. A building with windows and doors which are locked and covered or blocked by concrete block, bricks, sheet metal or other materials intended to prevent access. Windows covered with wooden boards shall not constitute a sealed building.

Separation (section) valve. A valve installed in a City water main or private water main to ensure two (2) separate sources of water.

Service pipe. A water supply pipe which connects the customer to a City water main, private water main or internal water main. Service pipes connecting a single customer's premises to a City water main or a private water main are under the jurisdiction of the Department from the City or private water main up to and including the meter set in metered properties, or first valve within the property in unmetered properties.

Sidewalk valve. A valve on a domestic service pipe located in the sidewalk area, at a distance of two (2) feet (street side) from the property line.

Stuffing box. That part of a valve which contains packing or similar material which prevents leakage when the valve is operated.

Suction tank. A tank used to protect the City distribution system from a large, sudden water demand.

Swing joint connection. An acceptable method of connecting to either well water or City water.

Tap. A corporation stop approved by the Department which controls the flow of water.

Tee connection. A three-way pipe fitting installed in a private water main or internal water main in lieu of a tap or wet connection.

Title vested street. A mapped street or record street whose ownership has been accepted by the City of New York, or a street which has a Corporation Counsel Opinion of Dedication.

UL/FM. Underwriter's Laboratories/Fireman's Mutual.

Vacant building. A building which is not inhabited, or is occupied illegally.

Valve. An non-rising stem gate valve.

Valve box. A standard New York City valve enclosure including the skirt, head and cover.

Waiver. The act of intentionally relinquishing a right or privilege.

Water conserving device. With reference to air conditioning or refrigeration systems, an evaporative condenser, water cooling tower, spray pond or economizer.

Water Meter Setting. The water meter, inlet and outlet isolation valves, test port or test tee and associated piping and fittings.

Water outlet. An orifice through which water is supplied to a fixture, into the atmosphere, to a boiler or heating system, or to any device which requires water to operate.

Wet connection. The hardware required to install a connection larger than two (2) inches without interruption of water service. A wet connection shall consist of a sleeve and a corresponding valve approved by the Department.

[RETURN TO MAIN DEP RULES, STANDARDS AND FEE SCHEDULE PAGE](#)