

**FRANKLIN COUNTY DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**REGULATION #703**  
**PLUMBING**

**703.01 DEFINITIONS**

- (A) "BOARD OF HEALTH" means the Board of Health of the Franklin County General Health District, as authorized by Section 3709.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- (B) "COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND PUBLIC BUILDING OR PLACE" means any building or place as defined in Section 3781.06 of the Ohio Revised Code, and any other similar building or place where plumbing is installed, is to be installed, or is to be a part thereof.
- (C) "GOVERNING AUTHORITY" means an entity, in addition to the Franklin County Board of Health, that issues plumbing permits, and includes the cities of Bexley, Dublin, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Grove City, Hilliard, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Whitehall, and Worthington, and the Villages of Minerva Park, Groveport, Obetz, Canal Winchester, and New Albany.
- (D) "HEALTH COMMISSIONER" means the health commissioner of the Franklin County District Board of Health or his authorized representative.
- (E) "PERSON" means the state, any political subdivision, public or private corporation, partnership, firm, association, individual, or other entity.
- (F) "PLUMBING" means any plumbing as used in Chapter 4101:2-56-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
- (G) "PLUMBING FIXTURE" means plumbing fixtures as used in Chapter 4101:2-56-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
- (H) "RESIDENTIAL BUILDING OR DWELLING" means any building which is wholly or partly used or intended to be used by human occupants not included in Section 3781.06 of the Ohio Revised Code, and shall include any single-family, two-family or three-family dwelling.

**703.02 PLUMBING FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND DWELLINGS**

- (A) All plumbing in and/or for public buildings and/or places located in the jurisdiction of the Franklin County General Health District shall be installed, maintained, tested, and inspected in accordance with this Regulation and the provisions of Chapter 4101:2-56-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Regulation; provided, however, this Regulation shall apply only to the types of public buildings or places for which the Ohio Department of Health has designated and approved the Franklin County General Health District to make the plumbing inspections.
- (B) All plumbing in single-family, two-family, and three-family dwellings in the Franklin County General Health District shall be installed, maintained, tested, and inspected in accordance with this Regulation and Chapter 4101:2-56-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Regulation.
- (C) It is the purpose of this Regulation to adopt by incorporation and by reference, the standards and methods regarding plumbing installations, maintenance, testing, and inspection for all plumbing in the jurisdiction of the Franklin County General Health District as is provided in Chapter 4101:2-56-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code and to provide for the proper enforcement, as specified by the Ohio Department of Health, 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 Health as is provided in Section 3703.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**703.03 REGISTRATION OF PLUMBING CONTRACTORS**

- (A) No person shall perform the services of a Plumbing Contractor unless he/she holds a valid registration issued to him/her by the Board of Health.

- (B) No person shall perform the services of a Plumbing Contractor without having a surety bond for \$5,000 naming the Franklin County Health Department as obligee.
- (C) Application for registration shall be in writing and contain all information required by the Board of Health. Any fee established for registration by law and/or authority of law shall accompany the application.
- (D) Each registration issued hereunder shall expire on December 31st of the year of issuance.

**703.03 REGISTRATION OF PLUMBING CONTRACTORS (CONT.)**

- (E) No permits will be issued to Plumbing Contractors whose registration has not been renewed.
- (F) Only plumbing inspectors from the Franklin County Health Department and the City of Columbus, Ohio are permitted to escrow their plumber registration.
- (G) Every registrant shall maintain and submit to the Board of Health such data and records as may be required for determining compliance with Regulation 703 of the Franklin County District Board of Health.
- (H) Violation of Regulation 703, or any other applicable laws, rules, or regulations, shall be cause for suspension or revocation of registration.
- (I) Whenever the Health Commissioner finds that a Plumbing Contractor is or has engaged in practices which are in violation of any provision of Regulation 703 of the Franklin County District Board of Health, the terms of the registration as required by the Board of Health, or applicable laws of the state, the Board of Health shall give notice in writing to the registrant describing the alleged violation and state that an opportunity for a hearing will be provided by the Board of Health to show cause why his or her registration should not be suspended or revoked.

**703.04 PLUMBING PERMIT AND PLAN APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS**

- (A) No plumbing shall be done in any commercial building or place and dwelling units of four (4) family or more, except in cases of leaks, repairs, and fixture replacements in existing plumbing, until plans and specifications for such plumbing work have been submitted and approved and a plumbing permit has been issued by the governing authority.
- (B) No plumbing shall be done in any residential building or dwelling, except in cases of leaks, repairs, and fixture replacements in existing plumbing, until a plumbing permit has been issued by the governing authority.

**703.04 PLUMBING PERMIT AND PLAN APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)**

- (C) Applications for permits must be submitted on forms provided by the governing authority and shall be accompanied by the plans and specification required by this regulation. Any fee established for a permit by law or authority of law shall accompany the application.
- (D) No permit shall be issued to any person to do plumbing who is not a registered Plumbing Contractor with the Franklin County General Health District as provided in section 703.03 (A) of this regulation, except to the owner of a single-family dwelling who is to personally perform the work in the home in which he/she lives or in which he/she intends to live.
- (E) Two (2) sets of plans with isometric drawings of plumbing for all commercial, industrial, or dwelling units of four (4) family or more, shall be submitted and approved before any work is started. An approved set of drawings shall be available on the job site. Any fee established for plan review by law and/or authority of law shall be submitted with the plans.
- (F) 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 plumbing 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, additional, supplemental, or revised plans and specifications and other data shall be submitted upon notification by the Health Commissioner.

- (G) After review of the plans and specifications submitted, one copy shall be retained and filed in the Franklin County Health Department, 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 plumbing 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 revised plans and specifications and shall be submitted to the Health Commissioner in the same manner as is required for original plans.
- (H) Applications for a permit to do plumbing work and for plan review shall be acted upon by the Health Commissioner without delay and in every case shall be acted upon within thirty days after application is made or after the required plans and specifications are submitted.
- (I) Plumbing permits shall remain in force until completion of the plumbing work or for one year from the date of issuance, whichever occurs first. The permit may, however, be revoked or suspended by the Board of Health.

**703.05 PLUMBING EXCEPTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS**

- (A) Building drains may be supported in a bed of #57 or smaller crushed stone.
- (B) Vertical stacks or risers in the drain and vent system may span one story without additional support. Waterline risers require mid-story strapping.
- (C) Concrete, brick laid in mortar, or metal brackets is not required to support the base of a soil or waste stack if other means are provided.
- (D) Final air tests are waived unless requested, for cause, by the

plumbing inspector.

- (E) Sealing around plumbing fixtures against walls and floors will not be an enforcement issue.
- (F) Domestic dishwashers rated to ASSE 1006 standards are sufficiently protected against backflow to the potable water supply.
- (G) The installations of commercial water hammer arresters at laundry and dishwasher connections are not required. Air chambers at each bathroom grouping and on kitchen and laundry supplies, as an integral part of the water piping system, are encouraged.
- (H) Plastic water services may extend more than five (5) feet into a building without transition to another material where meter location, such as adjacent to a crawl space or on a slab, may require.
- (I) CPVC water piping may be joined using a one-step cement, yellow in color, if recommended by the manufacturer.
- (J) Plastic to other piping materials in drain and vent systems shall be accomplished using approved transition bands or adapters. Extra heavy cast iron to schedule 40 or service weight connections must use the appropriate transition band with the difference in outside diameter compensated for in the band thickness.
- (K) All fixture supplies shall have individual stops, except tub or shower valves, where access would be impractical. Separate stops on frostproof sillcocks are not required.

**703.05 PLUMBING EXCEPTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS (CONT.)**

- (L) Valve identification tagging is not required.
- (M) Insulating hot water return piping systems is optional although encouraged to minimize heat loss.
- (N) The disinfection of potable water systems, for residential

applications, is not required.

- (O) Primer, either clear or purple in color as approved by the manufacturer, shall be used when joining PVC DWV pipe and fittings.
- (P) A gate or other valve is not required in addition to the check valve on a subsurface water sump discharge line.

#### **703.06 ADDITIONAL PLUMBING STANDARDS**

- (A) A branch vent shall be provided and stubbed below floor joists for future fixture openings in the underground plumbing.
- (B) Protection plates shall be installed where any drain, vent and waterline passes through framing members in a location where hazard of nail or screw puncture may exist.
- (C) Holes in roof sheathing shall be cut for vent terminals at time of rough inspection when weather conditions do not permit safe installation of flashing.
- (D) A minimum of three (3) feet shall be required between a floor drain trap and the main or branch drain from where it ties in.
- (E) Underground piping shall be imbedded or blocked and restrained, by staking, to prevent disturbance of the placement, fall, or alignment.
- (F) Dead ends and future openings shall have schedule 40 or heavier caps or plugs.

#### **703.07 INSPECTIONS**

- (A) All cleanout risers shall be permanently installed at the time of the underground inspection.
- (B) All piping in the waste and vent system and the water distribution system shall be under test at the time of the

complete rough inspection.

- (C) A reinspection fee will be required if a second inspection is made due to an error by the plumber or owner.
- (D) The use of water for testing in freezing temperatures is unacceptable.
- (E) A final test on residential plumbing may be required at the discretion of the plumbing inspector.
- (F) Only a Registered Plumbing Contractor or the individual who takes out the plumbing permit, can request an inspection.
- (G) Permit numbers are required before inspections will be made.
- (H) All commercial plumbing jobs must be supervised by a Plumbing Contractor.
- (I) Documents for initial testing of isolation backflow devices shall be submitted to the plumbing inspector prior to final inspection.

**703.08 GREASE INTERCEPTORS FOR FOOD SERVICES\ESTABLISHMENTS**

- (A) Grease interceptors must be installed in all proposed retail food establishments and food service operations as defined in the Ohio Revised Code Section 3171.01, with the exception of mobile and temporary retail food establishments (RFE) and/or food service operations (FSO). This Section does not apply to a "limited" RFE or "limited" FSO that does not require utensil washing and has no ware washing equipment, that are serviced by a sanitary sewerage system or an individual sewage treatment system. The size will be based on the type of operation and the fixture load. Grease interceptors shall be installed immediately outside the building where there is easy access for cleaning. In accordance with Section 703.12 of this Regulation, the Health Commissioner or his/her designated representative may grant an exemption to this regulation if it is impractical to install an outside grease interceptor. If the Health Commissioner or his/her designated representative determines that an outside grease interceptor is necessary resulting from the administrative hearing specified in Section 703.12, a person may apply in writing for a variance to this regulation according to Section 703.13, and pay all applicable variance fees.



**703.09 PUBLIC RESTROOMS FOR FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS**

- (A) Any food service operation with a seating capacity of five (5) or more must have public restrooms, one (1) male and one (1) female.

**703.10 BACKFLOW DEVICES ON HOSE CONNECTIONS**

- (A) All residential buildings must be provided a backflow or syphonage preventor on all hose connections, excluding drain cocks.

**703.11 BACKFLOW DEVICES ON LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS**

- (A) No person shall install or cause to be installed any backflow device upon a lawn sprinkler system without an installation permit. The owner or his authorized agent shall obtain such installation permit prior to the installation of the backflow device.
- (B) The backflow device and the installation and use of the backflow device shall meet all provisions of Chapter 4101:2-56-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code (Ohio Plumbing Code) and Regulation 703 of the Franklin County District Board of Health Sanitary Regulations.
- (C) Application for permit shall be in writing and all pertinent information as required by the Governing Authority. Any fee established for the permit by law or authority of law shall accompany the application.
- (D) The governing authority shall issue a permit when the pertinent information indicates that the provisions of Regulation 703 of the Franklin County District Board of Health, Ohio Plumbing Code or applicable state laws, rules, or regulations can be met. The governing authority may specify terms consistent with Regulation 703 or other applicable state laws, rules, or regulations on the permit governing the installation, testing, and rebuilding of backflow devices.
- (E) The governing authority shall deny a permit if the information on the application is incomplete, inaccurate, or indicates that the provisions of Regulation 703 of the Franklin County District

Board of Health Sanitary Regulations or applicable state laws, rules, or regulations cannot be met.

- (F) An installation permit shall remain in force until the installation of the backflow device is complete or for one year from the date of issuance, whichever occurs first. The permit may be revoked or suspended by the governing authority.
- (G) The lawn sprinkler system shall not be placed into service or used until the backflow device has been tested in accordance to Chapter 4101:2-56-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code and inspected and approved by the Health Commissioner.
- (H) Documents for initial testing of isolation backflow devices shall be submitted to the plumbing inspector prior to final inspection.

**703.12 HEARING**

- (A) The Board of Health shall grant an administrative hearing, **with the Health Commissioner or his/her designated representative**, to any person affected or aggrieved by Regulation 703 of the Franklin County District Board of Health.

**703.13 VARIANCE**

- (A) The Board of Health may grant a variance from the requirements of Regulation 703 of the Franklin County District Board of Health as will not be contrary to the public interest, where a person shows that because of practical difficulties or other special conditions a strict application will cause unusual and unnecessary hardship. However, no variance shall be granted that will defeat the spirit and general intent of said Regulation, or be otherwise contrary to the public health.

**703.14 EFFECT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY**

- (A) In any case where a provision or section of this Regulation is found to be in conflict with a provision or section of any zoning, building, fire, safety, or health regulation or code of Franklin County existing on the effective date of this Regulation, the provision or section which establishes the higher standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people shall prevail. In any case where a provision or section of this Regulation is found to be in conflict with a provision or section of any other regulation or code of the Franklin County existing on the effective date of

this Regulation which establishes a lower standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people, the provision or section of this Regulation shall be deemed to prevail, and such other regulations or codes are hereby declared to be repealed to the extent that they may be found in conflict with this Regulation. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Regulation should be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this regulation, which shall remain in full force in effect; and to this end the provisions or sections of this Regulation are hereby declared to be severable.

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*Amended 9/11/07*