

CHAPTER 3

CROSS CONNECTIONS, AUXILIARY INTAKES, ETC.¹

SECTION

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18-301. Definitions. The following definitions and terms shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

(1) "Public water supply." The waterworks system furnishing water to the town for general use and which supply is recognized as the public water supply by the Tennessee Department of Health.

(2) "Cross connection." Any physical arrangement whereby the public water supply is connected, directly or indirectly, with any other water supply system, whether sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or other device which contains, or may contain, contaminated water, sewage, or other waste or liquid of unknown or unsafe quality which may be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply as a result of backflow. Bypass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or change-over devices through which, or because of which, backflow could occur are considered to be cross connections.

(3) "Auxiliary intake." Any piping connection or other device whereby water may be secured from a source other than that normally used.

(4) "Bypass." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the water may be diverted around any part or portion of a water purification plant.

(5) "Interconnection." Any system of piping or other arrangement whereby the public water supply is connected directly with a sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, or other device which does or may contain sewage or other waste or liquid which would be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply.

(6) "Person." Any and all persons, natural or artificial, including any individual, firm, or association, and any municipal or private corporation organized or existing under the laws of this or any other state or country. (1989 Code, § 8-401)

18-302. Standards. The municipal public water supply is to comply with Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 68-221-701 through 68-221-720 as well as the Rules and Regulations for Public Water Supplies, legally adopted in

¹Municipal code reference

Plumbing and related codes: title 12.

accordance with this code, which pertain to cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, and interconnections, and establish an effective ongoing program to control these undesirable water uses. (1989 Code, § 8-402)

18-303. Construction, operation, and supervision. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause a cross connection to be made, or allow one to exist for any purpose whatsoever, unless the construction and operation of same have been approved by the Tennessee Department of Health and the operation of such cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass or interconnection is at all times under the direct supervision of the health officer or his representative. (1989 Code, § 8-403)

18-304. Statement required. Any person whose premises are supplied with water from the public water supply and who also has on the same premises a separate source of water supply, or stores water in an uncovered or unsanitary storage reservoir from which the water stored therein is circulated through a piping system, shall file with the town a statement of the non-existence of unapproved or unauthorized cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections. Such statement shall also contain an agreement that no cross connection, auxiliary intake, bypass, or interconnection will be permitted upon the premises. (1989 Code, § 8-404)

18-305. Inspections required. It shall be the duty of the health officer to cause inspections to be made of all properties served by the public water supply where cross connections with the public water supply are deemed possible. The frequency of inspections and reinspection, based on potential health hazards involved, shall be established by the town and as approved by the Tennessee Department of Health. (1989 Code, § 8-405)

18-306. Right of entry for inspections. The health officer or his authorized representative shall have the right to enter, at any reasonable time, any property served by a connection to the public water supply for the purpose of inspecting the piping system or systems therein for cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections. On request, the owner, lessee, or occupant of any property so served shall furnish to the inspection agency any pertinent information regarding the piping system or systems on such property. The refusal of such information or refusal of access, when requested, shall be deemed evidence of the presence of cross connections. (1989 Code, § 8-406)

18-307. Correction of existing violations. Any person who now has cross connections, auxiliary intakes, bypasses, or interconnections in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be allowed a reasonable time within which to comply with the provisions of this chapter. After a thorough investigation of existing conditions and an appraisal of the time required to complete the work, the amount of time shall be designated by the town.

The failure to correct conditions threatening the safety of the public water system as prohibited by this chapter and the Tennessee Code Annotated, § 68-221-711, within a reasonable time and within the time limits set by the town shall be grounds for denial of water service. If proper protection has not been provided after a reasonable time, the town shall give the customer legal notification that water service is to be discontinued and shall physically separate the public water supply from the customer's on-site piping system in

such a manner that the two systems cannot again be connected by an unauthorized person.

Where cross connections, interconnections, auxiliary intakes, or bypasses are found that constitute an extreme hazard of immediate concern of contaminating the public water system, the management of the water supply shall require that immediate corrective action be taken to eliminate the threat to the public water system. Immediate steps shall be taken to disconnect the public water supply from the on-site piping system unless the imminent hazard(s) is (are) corrected immediately. (1989 Code, § 8-407)

18-308. Use of protective devices. Where the nature of use of the water supplied a premises by the water department is such that it is deemed

- (1) impractical to provide an effective air-gap separation,
- (2) that the owner and/or occupant of the premises cannot, or is not willing, to demonstrate to the town, or his designated representative, that the water use and protective features of the plumbing are such as to propose no threat to the safety or potability of the water supply,
- (3) that the nature and mode of operation within a premises are such that frequent alterations are made to the plumbing,

(4) there is a likelihood that protective measures may be subverted, altered, or disconnected, the health officer or his designated representative, shall require the use of an approved protective device on the service line serving the premises to assure that any contamination that may originate in the customer's premises is contained therein. The protective device shall be a reduced pressure zone type backflow preventer approved by the Tennessee Department of Health as to manufacture, model, and size. The method of installation of backflow protective devices shall be approved by the health officer prior to installation and shall comply with the criteria set forth by the Tennessee Department of Health. The installation shall be at the expense of the owner or occupant of the premises.

Personnel of the municipal public water supply shall have the right to inspect and test the device or devices on an annual basis or whenever deemed necessary by the water superintendent or his designated representative. Water service shall not be disrupted to test the device without the knowledge of the occupant of the premises.

Where the use of water is critical to the continuance of normal operations or protection of life, property, or equipment, duplicate units shall be provided to avoid the necessity of discontinuing water service to test or repair the protective device or devices. Where it is found that only one unit has been installed and the continuance of service is critical, the town shall notify, in writing, the occupant of the premises of plans to discontinue water service and arrange for a mutually acceptable time to test and/or repair the device. The health officer shall require the occupant of the premises to make all repairs indicated promptly, to keep the unit(s) working properly, and the expense of such repairs shall be borne by the owner or occupant of the premises. Repairs shall be made by qualified personnel acceptable to the town.

The failure to maintain backflow prevention devices in proper working order shall be grounds for discontinuing water service to a premises. Likewise, the removal, bypassing, or altering of the protective devices or the installation thereof so as to render the devices ineffective shall constitute grounds for discontinuance of water service. Water service to such premises shall not be

restored until the customer has corrected or eliminated such conditions or defects to the satisfaction of the town. (1989 Code, § 8-408)

18-309. Unpotable water to be labeled. In order that the potable water supply made available to premises served by the public water supply shall be protected from possible contamination as specified herein, any water outlet which could be used for potable or domestic purposes and which is not supplied by the potable system must be labeled in a conspicuous manner as:

WATER UNSAFE
FOR DRINKING

The minimum acceptable sign shall have black letters at least one-inch high located on a red background. (1989 Code, § 8-409)

18-310. Violations. The requirements contained herein shall apply to all premises served by the town water system whether located inside or outside the corporate limits and are hereby made a part of the conditions required to be met for the town to provide water services to any premises. Such action, being essential for the protection of the water distribution system against the entrance of contamination which may render the water unsafe healthwise, or otherwise undesirable, shall be enforced rigidly without regard to location of the premises, whether inside or outside the corporate limits.

Any person who neglects or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction therefor, shall be fined under the general penalty clause for this municipal code of ordinances. (1989 Code, § 8-410)