

RULE AND REGULATION NO. 2019-02  
Division of Water  
Department of Public Utilities

DATE: September 12, 2019

**SUBJECT: WATER METERING SYSTEMS**

Pursuant to the authority granted under Columbus City Codes Chapter 1101, the Director of the Department of Public Utilities hereby adopts, establishes, and publishes this rule and regulation to be effective at the earliest date allowed by law. This rule and regulation supersedes Division of Water Rule and Regulation 96-1, published November 9, 1996, in The City Bulletin of Columbus, Ohio. This rule and regulation is in addition to any established requirements that have not been superseded or rescinded by this or any previous act.

**APPLICATION:** This regulation applies to all installations of metering systems, whether new or replacing an existing system, for water tap sizes 3/4" and greater (meter sizes 5/8" and greater).

Size of Meter

The meter will be the same size or one size smaller than the service size.

Installation of Metering System

The metering system will be installed after the service line is inspected and approved. For meter sizes 5/8" through 1 1/2", the metering system will be installed by the Division of Water or their duly authorized representative. This system will include the water meter, the remote register, and wire to connect the remote register to the meter. For meters 2" and larger, the metering system will be installed by the property owner.

Meter Supports

Supports for meters 1 1/2" and larger will be provided by the property owner as needed. Supports will not be strapped, clamped, bolted, or permanently attached in any manner to the meter.

Location of Meter

The location of the meter must insure access for installing, reading, maintaining and/or replacing the meter at all times. For meter sizes 5/8" through 1", the meter will be set in existing or proposed structures, unless a meter box installation has been approved by the Administrator, Division of Water. For meters 1 1/2" and larger, the location of the meter and the remote register (if required) will be approved on an individual basis by the Administrator, Division of Water. The specific location requirements are as follows:

**Basement Installations (for meter sizes 5/8" through 1"):** A basement installation will be used wherever possible. The meter will be installed within two (2) feet downstream of where the service line enters the inside basement wall. The meter will be located 12" to 48" from the basement floor. (For further details see Standard Detail Drawings L-8503.)

**Slab Installations (for meter sizes 5/8" through 1"):** A slab installation will be used wherever a basement installation is unfeasible. The meter will be installed in a utility room and within two (2) feet downstream of where



the service line first enters the ground floor. The meter will be located 12" to 24" from the finished floor. (For further details see Standard Detail Drawings L-8503.)

Split-Level Installations (for meter sizes 5/8" through 1"): Split level installations must comply with either the requirements for a basement installation or a slab installation depending on the entry point of the service line.

METERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN CRAWL SPACES. SERVICE LINES ARE PERMITTED IN CRAWL SPACES IF ALL HORIZONTAL SECTIONS ARE BURIED AT LEAST SIX (6) INCHES BELOW THE SURFACE. STRUCTURES WITH CRAWL SPACES BUT WITHOUT BASEMENTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE SLAB INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS BY ASSUMING THE CRAWL SPACE IS INACCESSIBLE. IN SUCH CASES, THE SERVICE LINE WILL BE INSULATED WHERE EXPOSED IN THE CRAWL SPACE.

Meter Box Installations (for meter sizes 5/8" through 1"): Where required approval has been obtained, the meter location will conform to Standard Detail Drawings L-7103.

1 1/2" Meter Installations Inside Building: Meter location will conform to Standard Detail Drawings L-6317.

Large Meter Installations Inside Building (for meter sizes 2" through 10" x 12"): Where required approval has been obtained, meter location will conform to Standard Detail Drawings L-6317.

Meter Pit Installations (for meter sizes 1 1/2" through 10" x 12"): Where required approval has been obtained, the meter location will conform to Standard Detail Drawings L-6317.

THE DIVISION OF WATER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE AND APPROVE METER LOCATIONS THAT DIFFER FROM THIS RULE AND REGULATION IF THE DIVISION DEEMS IT NECESSARY.

#### Maintenance Responsibilities

The Division of Water will install, maintain, and replace all metering systems excluding auxiliary meters.

#### Meter Settings

The property owner will be responsible for installation, maintenance, and replacement of the meter setting. For meter sizes 5/8" through 1 1/2", the meter setting will be provided by the Division of Water. All other settings will be provided by the property owner. Settings provided by the Division of Water are available after the service connection permit is issued. The specific meter setting requirements are as follows:

Meter Sizes 5/8" through 1": The setting for meter sizes 5/8" through 1" will be a meter horn. (See Standard Detail Drawings L-8503.)

Meter Size 1 1/2": The setting for meter size 1 1/2" will be a 1 1/2" meter setter. (See Standard Detail Drawings L-6317.)

Meter Sizes 2" and Larger: The setting for meter sizes 2" and larger will comply with Standard Detail Drawings L-6317.

ONLY ONE VALVE WILL BE PERMITTED UPSTREAM OF THE METER.

#### Backflow Prevention

In those instances where a backflow prevention device is required, the device will be installed immediately downstream of the meter with an approved valve between the meter and the backflow device. No connections will be allowed prior to the



meter regardless of any requirements for backflow prevention. Specific requirements are addressed in the Division of Water rule and regulation on backflow prevention.

Location of Remote Register (if necessary)

The remote register will be installed at a point four (4) to five (5) feet above grade on either side of the structure and not more than two (2) feet from the front wall, unless otherwise approved by the Administrator, Division of Water. For meters installed in meter boxes, the remote register will be installed in compliance with Standard Detail Drawings L-7103. In either case the location must provide an unobstructed view of the remote register and the property owner must maintain access to the register so that the register can be easily read.

Negligence or Abuse to the Metering System

The property owner will be responsible for any damage resulting from negligence or abuse to the metering system. All charges for damages are as specified in Columbus City Code Section 1105.09.

Tampering with Metering System

If the Division of Water determines that any part of the metering system has been tampered with, causing the meter, generator register, or remote register to malfunction, penalties as specified in City Code Section 1103.99 and 1105.09, may be assessed along with the charge for the value of the estimated quantity of water that was not registered due to the tampering. A termination of service charge will also be assessed if service is terminated. These penalties and charges will also apply for circumventing the metering system or unauthorized use of water obtained prior to the installation of an approved metering system. Each violation will be considered a separate offense.

Refusal of Admittance to Premises

If the Division of Water or their duly authorized representative is hindered or prevented from installing, reading, maintaining, or replacing the metering system, the Administrator may order the water to be turned off after first notifying the occupant and customer of record of said premises.

Violations

The refusal or failure to comply with this rule and regulation can result in the discontinuance of water service until requirements are met.

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