



Summary of Changes: RCNY Title 15 Chapter 20: January 2014

Title 15 Chapter 20 of the Rules of the City of New York (RCNY) are DEP's "Rules Governing and Restricting the Use and Supply of Water." It contains specific rules for water meter manufacturers about their products, specifications for Licensed Master Plumbers and Professional Engineers about the installation of water meters and backflow prevention devices, along with other related subjects. DEP also publishes a "List of Approved Water Meters and Related Equipment" and a manual that provides detailed instructions for the installation of backflow prevention devices that are separate from but related to these rules. "Chapter 20" is updated every few years. Below is a summary of the changes that took effect February 22, 2014.

This is an informal summary and should not substitute for review of the actual proposed amendments published in The City Record, November 22, 2013. The new version of the Rule took effect on February 22, 2014. The amendments can be found at:

<https://rules.cityofnewyork.us/content/amendment-water-use-and-supply-rules>

Once published, the complete amended Rule will be available at:

<https://rules.cityofnewyork.us/codified-rules?agency=DEP>

Summary:

1. Water Meter Testing/Repair Companies
 - a. Permits are established to operate such companies and to perform tests. Requirements are established for companies who wish to perform meter accuracy tests.
2. Requirement That Each Tax Lot Must Have its Own Water Supply
 - a. An explicit statement that one Lot cannot supply another Lot with water. Previously this was stated in a less definitive manner.
3. Requirements for Meters and Backflow Prevention for Internal Water Mains
 - a. A backflow prevention device and meter must be placed in a vault or above-ground enclosure at the property line. Additional requirements are described.
4. Initial and Annual Tests of Backflow Prevention Equipment
 - a. Explicitly states requirements for an initial test of newly installed backflow prevention equipment, annual testing thereafter, and reporting to DEP.

5. Water Hammer Arresters
 - a. Reference to the New York City Plumbing Code is updated.
6. Suction Tanks
 - a. Suction tank sizing standards are stated and updated since this issue has been dropped from the New York City Plumbing Code.
7. Section Valves – Repealed (i.e. no longer allowed).
8. Metering of Dedicated Fire Services, Combined Fire/Domestic Services and Domestic Services with Fire Sprinklers
 - a. Meter types and configurations are updated.
9. Requirement for Meter Review as Part of Design Cross Connection Submissions
 - a. An explicit statement that approval of backflow prevention equipment design drawings does not constitute approval of the meter setting. The meter setting review is a separate process and must be completed.
10. Eliminates Approval of Low Resolution Water Meters
 - a. $\frac{5}{8}$ " through 1" meters must have remote read resolution of 1 cubic foot or better
 - b. 1½" and 2" meters must have remote read resolution of 10 CF or better
 - c. Meters larger than 2" must have remote read resolution of 100 CF or better
 - d. Neptune ARBV and ProRead meters do not meet these requirements for sizes 2" and smaller.
11. AMR System Compatibility
 - a. An explicit requirement that meters must be compatible with DEP's AMR system as confirmed by DEP.
12. NSF61 Certification ("No Lead" Requirement)
 - a. Past versions of the Rule required that meters and other fittings have no more than 0.25% lead content. This was the NSF61 rule at that time. This version changes the language to simply cite compliance with the current version of NSF61.
13. Plastic meter bodies
 - a. Requires that all plastic meter bodies be recyclable.
14. Battery Life/Warranty
 - a. Requires that any meter that requires a battery for operation have a battery life equal to the meter's useful life as defined by DEP.
15. Bar Code Requirement
 - a. Requires that all meters come with a bar code compliant with DEP specifications including model number, size, AMR Meter ID and other items.
16. Waterproofed Wiring Connections
 - a. Meters being installed in outdoor pits/vaults or in basements located within flood zones must have factory waterproofed wiring connections.

17. Compound Type Water Meters No Longer Approved
 - a. Compound type water meters are removed from DEP's "Approved" list as of May 1, 2014. The manufacturers of these meters were informed of this plan during the course of this rulemaking.
18. Use of Turbine, Electromagnetic and Single-Jet Meters
 - a. Updated guidelines on where each technology should be used.
19. Valve and Meter Setting Specifications
 - a. Updated specifications on meter isolation valve specifications
 - b. More explicit language about installation of unapproved equipment before or after the meter that may affect meter operation
 - c. Updated specification on outlet valves where a backflow preventer is located on the same service.
 - d. Harmonizes piping specifications with the NYC Plumbing Code while also identifying impermissible uses of grooved mechanical connection piping systems directly before or after a meter.
 - e. Language that explicitly states that test tee connections cannot be used for domestic branch connections.
 - f. Allows seal wires to be run through holes in flanges or in bolts.
20. Optional Individual Metering for Certain Condos
 - a. Currently DEP requires that new condos three stories or smaller with domestic hot water and heating systems in each unit have individual DEP billing meters. These updated rules make individual metering an option for similar condos four- or five stories in height. DEP is issuing application guidelines for these optional installations.
21. AMR Boxes
 - a. The section on remote meter reading receptacles is rewritten to comply with location and mounting of AMR boxes.
22. Once Through Water-Cooled Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
 - a. Revised to harmonize with Local Law 54-2010 which prohibits almost all kinds of once-through ("single-pass") water-cooled refrigeration.
23. Restrictions on Serving Water in Restaurants
 - a. Repealed, although this restriction remains in the Drought Emergency Rules.
24. Sidewalk Flushing
 - a. Specifies 2.5 gpm or lower flow rate (pressure wash) equipment for larger residential or commercial buildings.
25. Updated Sketches and Some Terms Added to the Glossary.