

# CHAPTER 1

## ADMINISTRATION

### PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION

#### SECTION 101 GENERAL

**AC-101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Plumbing Code of the Allegheny County Health Department, hereinafter referred to as “Article XV.”

**AC-101.1.1 Effective date.** This Article, after approval, shall become effective no sooner than ten (10) days after being advertised in a newspaper of general circulation in Allegheny County. All other provisions of Article XV shall be superseded and replaced.

**101.2 Scope.** The provisions of this code shall apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repairs, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of plumbing systems within this jurisdiction. This code shall also regulate non-flammable medical gas, inhalation anesthetic, vacuum piping, nonmedical oxygen systems and sanitary and condensate vacuum collection systems. The installation of fuel gas distribution piping and equipment, fuel-gas-fired water heaters and water heater venting systems shall be regulated by the *International Fuel Gas Code*. Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted.

**Exception:** Detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories high with separate means of egress and their accessory structures shall comply with the *International Residential Code*.

**AC-101.3 Intent.** This Article provides for the comprehensive and uniform regulation of plumbing throughout Allegheny County to protect the public from the health hazards of inadequate or unsanitary plumbing; sets forth procedures for contracting with municipalities to provide inspection services and to issue permits and licenses; sets fees for the aforementioned services and licenses; provides for the imposition of penalties; sets forth definitions and procedures for the administration of the Plumbing Code of the Allegheny County Health Department; and provides for a Plumbing Program and a Plumbing Advisory Board.

**AC-101.3.1 Administration by other Municipalities within Allegheny County.** Those municipalities in Allegheny County presently administering the provisions of this Article and the Plumbing Code of the Allegheny County Health Department may continue to do so, so long as no plumbing permits are issued for plans with requirements meeting standards less stringent than those outlined in this Article. Changes to the agreements with these municipalities are to be reviewed annually by the Board of Health. The person(s) who serve as inspector(s) in municipalities wishing to administer the Plumbing Code of the Allegheny County Health Department shall be appointed by the governing body of the municipality and shall have

such qualifications as set forth by Article XV and the PA Construction Code Act of 1999 (Act 45) Chapter 401, Training and Certification.

**101.4 Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

#### SECTION 102 APPLICABILITY

**102.1 General.** Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall govern. Where, in any specific case, different sections of this code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

**102.2 Existing installations.** Plumbing systems lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code shall be permitted to have their use and maintenance continued if the use, maintenance or repair is in accordance with the original design and no hazard to life, health or property is created by such plumbing system.

**102.3 Maintenance.** All plumbing systems, materials and appurtenances, both existing and new, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in proper operating condition in accordance with the original design in a safe and sanitary condition. All devices or safeguards required by this code shall be maintained in compliance with the code edition under which they were installed.

The owner or the owner’s designated agent shall be responsible for maintenance of plumbing systems. To determine compliance with this provision, the code official shall have the authority to require any plumbing system to be reinspected.

**102.4 Additions, alterations or repairs.** Additions, alterations, renovations or repairs to any plumbing system shall conform to that required for a new plumbing system without requiring the existing plumbing system to comply with all the requirements of this code. Additions, alterations or repairs shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe, insanitary or overloaded.

Minor additions, alterations, renovations and repairs to existing plumbing systems shall meet the provisions for new construction, unless such work is done in the same manner and arrangement as was in the existing system, is not hazardous and is *approved*.

**102.5 Change in occupancy.** It shall be unlawful to make any change in the *occupancy* of any structure that will subject the structure to any special provision of this code applicable to the new *occupancy* without approval of the code official. The code official shall certify that such structure meets the intent of the provisions of law governing building construc-

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tion for the proposed new *occupancy* and that such change of *occupancy* does not result in any hazard to the public health, safety or welfare.

**102.6 Historic buildings.** The provisions of this code relating to the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings or structures shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures identified and classified by the state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings when such buildings or structures are judged by the code official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare regarding any proposed construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings.

**102.7 Moved buildings.** Except as determined by Section 102.2, plumbing systems that are a part of buildings or structures moved into or within the jurisdiction shall comply with the provisions of this code for new installations.

**102.8 Referenced codes and standards.** The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 13 and such codes and standards shall be considered as part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where differences occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall be the minimum requirements.

**102.9 Requirements not covered by code.** Any requirements necessary for the strength, stability or proper operation of an existing or proposed plumbing system, or for the public safety, health and general welfare, not specifically covered by this code shall be determined by the code official.

**102.10 Other laws.** The provisions of this code shall not be deemed to nullify any provisions of local, state or federal law.

**102.11 Application of references.** Reference to chapter section numbers, or to provisions not specifically identified by number, shall be construed to refer to such chapter, section or provision of this code.

## PART 2—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

### SECTION 103 DEPARTMENT OF PLUMBING INSPECTION

**AC-103.1 General.** The Plumbing Program of the Allegheny County Health Department is responsible for the enforcement of these regulations.

**AC-103.2 Appointment.** The Chief Plumbing Inspector shall be appointed by the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department.

**AC-103.3 Staffing.** In accordance with the prescribed procedures of the Allegheny County Health Department, the Director shall appoint Plumbing Inspector Supervisors, Plumbing Inspectors, and other related technical officers and employees.

**103.4 Liability.** The code official, member of the board of appeals or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction in good faith and without malice in the discharge of the duties required by this code

or other pertinent law or ordinance, shall not thereby be rendered liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of any act or by reason of an act or omission in the discharge of official duties.

Any suit instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representative of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. The code official or any subordinate shall not be liable for costs in any action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this code.

**AC-103.5 Conflict of interest.** No person appointed Chief Plumbing Inspector, Assistant Chief Plumbing Inspector, Plumbing Inspector Supervisor, and/or Plumbing Inspector shall, directly or indirectly, be engaged in business or work regulated by this Article during his employment with the Department.

### SECTION 104 DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE CODE OFFICIAL

**AC-104.1 General.** The Director and/or his designee shall enforce the provisions of this Article and shall preside over the resolution of any question relating to the installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, or operation of all plumbing systems, devices, and equipment.

**AC-104.2 Rule-making authority.** The Board of Health shall have the authority, in the interest of public health, safety and the general welfare, to adopt rules and regulations through its established rulemaking process for the approval of the Allegheny County Chief Executive.

The Board of Health shall direct the Department to propose rules, regulations, standards, policies, and procedures to the Board of Health for approval, to interpret and implement the provisions of this Article; to secure the intent thereof; and to designate due to local climatic or other conditions appropriate, alternative minimum standards. Such rules, regulations, standards, policies, or procedures shall not have the effect of waiving structural or fire performance requirements specifically provided for in this code, or of violating accepted engineering practice involving public safety.

The Board of Health may direct the Plumbing Advisory Board to review and comment upon rules, regulations, standards, policies, and procedures proposed by the Department.

**AC-104.3 Applications and permits.** The Chief Plumbing Inspector and/or his designee shall receive applications and issue permits for installation and alteration of plumbing, inspect the premises for which such permits have been issued, and ensure through necessary enforcement procedures compliance with the provisions of this Article.

**AC-104.4 Inspections.** The Chief Plumbing Inspector and/or his designee shall make all required inspections, or shall accept reports of inspections by approved agencies or individuals. All inspection reports shall be in writing and be

endorsed by an officer of such approved agency or by an approved individual. The Chief Plumbing Inspector and/or his designee is authorized to engage such expert opinion as is deemed necessary to resolve unusual technical issues that arise, subject to the approval of the Director.

**104.5 Right of entry.** Whenever it is necessary to make an inspection to enforce the provisions of this code, or whenever the code official has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in any building or upon any premises any conditions or violations of this code that make the building or premises unsafe, insanitary, dangerous or hazardous, the code official shall have the authority to enter the building or premises at all reasonable times to inspect or to perform the duties imposed upon the code official by this code. If such building or premises is occupied, the code official shall present credentials to the occupant and request entry. If such building or premises is unoccupied, the code official shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other person having charge or control of the building or premises and request entry. If entry is refused, the code official shall have recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry.

When the code official shall have first obtained a proper inspection warrant or other remedy provided by law to secure entry, no owner or occupant or person having charge, care or control of any building or premises shall fail or neglect, after proper request is made as herein provided, to promptly permit entry therein by the code official for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this code.

**104.6 Identification.** The code official shall carry proper identification when inspecting structures or premises in the performance of duties under this code.

**104.7 Notices and orders.** The code official shall issue all necessary notices or orders to ensure compliance with this code.

**AC-104.7.1 Civil penalties.** A person who violates any of the provisions of this Article, or any order issued by the Director under this regulation, is subject to a Civil Penalty in accordance with the provisions of the Department's Rules & Regulations, Article XVI, "Civil Penalties."

**104.8 Department records.** The code official shall keep official records of applications received, permits and certificates issued, fees collected, reports of inspections, and notices and orders issued. Such records shall be retained in the official records as long as the building or structure to which such records relate remains in existence unless otherwise provided for by other regulations.

## SECTION 105 APPROVAL

**AC-105.1 Modifications.** Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the Director and/or his designee shall have the authority to approve modifications on a case by case basis, provided that the Director and/or his designee shall first find that special circumstances make the strict letter of this code impractical. Such modifications shall be in conformity with the intent and

purpose of this code, such that they do not negatively impact human or environmental health or fire safety. The details of an action granting a modification to this code shall be recorded and maintained in the files of the Plumbing Program.

**105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment.** The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been *approved*. An alternative material or method of construction shall be *approved* where the code official finds that the proposed alternative material, method or equipment complies with the intent of the provisions of this code and is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code.

**105.2.1 Research reports.** Supporting data, where necessary to assist in the approval of materials or assemblies not specifically provided for in this code, shall consist of valid research reports from *approved* sources.

**105.3 Required testing.** Whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of this code, or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of this code, or in order to substantiate claims for alternate materials or methods, the code official shall have the authority to require tests as evidence of compliance to be made at no expense to the jurisdiction.

**105.3.1 Test methods.** Test methods shall be as specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the code official shall approve the testing procedures.

**105.3.2 Testing agency.** All tests shall be performed by an *approved* agency.

**105.3.3 Test reports.** Reports of tests shall be retained by the code official for the period required for retention of public records.

**105.4 Alternative engineered design.** The design, documentation, inspection, testing and approval of an *alternative engineered design* plumbing system shall comply with Sections 105.4.1 through 105.4.6.

**105.4.1 Design criteria.** An *alternative engineered design* shall conform to the intent of the provisions of this code and shall provide an equivalent level of quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. Material, equipment or components shall be designed and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**105.4.2 Submittal.** The registered design professional shall indicate on the permit application that the plumbing system is an *alternative engineered design*. The permit and permanent permit records shall indicate that an *alternative engineered design* was part of the *approved* installation.

**105.4.3 Technical data.** The registered design professional shall submit sufficient technical data to substantiate the proposed *alternative engineered design* and to prove that the performance meets the intent of this code.

**105.4.4 Construction documents.** The registered design professional shall submit to the code official two complete sets of signed and sealed construction documents for the *alternative engineered design*. The construction documents shall include floor plans and a riser diagram of the work. Where appropriate, the construction documents shall indicate the direction of flow, all pipe sizes, grade of horizontal piping, loading, and location of fixtures and appliances.

**105.4.5 Design approval.** Where the code official determines that the *alternative engineered design* conforms to the intent of this code, the plumbing system shall be *approved*. If the *alternative engineered design* is not *approved*, the code official shall notify the registered design professional in writing, stating the reasons thereof.

**105.4.6 Inspection and testing.** The *alternative engineered design* shall be tested and inspected in accordance with the requirements of Sections 107 and 312.

**105.5 Approved materials and equipment.** Materials, equipment and devices *approved* by the code official shall be constructed and installed in accordance with such approval.

**105.5.1 Material and equipment reuse.** Materials, equipment and devices shall not be reused unless such elements have been reconditioned, tested, placed in good and proper working condition and *approved*.

## SECTION 106 PERMITS

**AC-106.1 When permits are required.** A permit is required to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by this Article, or to cause any such work to be done. Such permit may be obtained by application to the Plumbing Program.

**AC-106.1.1 Engaging in the business of plumbing.** No person, other than a currently licensed master plumber, shall engage in the business of plumbing or expose the sign of plumbing or any advertisement pertaining thereto, except wholesale or retail plumbing fixture suppliers. Any firm or corporation desiring to engage in the business of plumbing shall have at least one member who possesses a valid master plumber’s license, who shall register with the Department his or her name, along with the name(s) of all officers of the firm or corporation upon whose behalf he is registering.

**AC-106.2 Exempt work.** The following work shall be exempt from the requirement for a permit:

1. Repairs that involve the working parts of a faucet or valve, the clearance of stoppages, or the replacement of defective faucets or valves, may be made without a permit. However, a permit shall be obtained when any part of the plumbing system becomes defective and requires replacement or alteration.
2. Allied Trades may install equipment not identified as plumbing but which may require water and/or waste connections such as heating, air conditioning, cooling,

refrigeration, fire sprinkler systems, and industrial piping. These connections may be made without a permit to water and waste outlets originally provided for in the plumbing and drainage systems, when such connections are made in conformance to Article XV, provided that: where such equipment or systems are being added to a structure in which no provisions have previously been provided for water supply and/or drainage outlets, the services of a registered master plumber will be required; and provided further that installers of any equipment requiring potable water using equipment or systems subject to backflow and/or which would in any way utilize toxic materials or chemicals which could potentially contaminate the potable water supply, shall be required to engage the services of a registered plumber to install proper backflow prevention devices as approved by the Administrative Authority.

3. Installation of public facilities: The “Drainage Systems” regulated by this Article include all piping within public or private premises that conveys sewage or other wastes to a legal point of disposal, but do not include the mains of public water or sewer systems or public or private sewage treatment or disposal plants.

**106.3 Application for permit.** Each application for a permit, with the required fee, shall be filed with the code official on a form furnished for that purpose and shall contain a general description of the proposed work and its location. The application shall be signed by the owner or an authorized agent. The permit application shall indicate the proposed *occupancy* of all parts of the building and of that portion of the site or lot, if any, not covered by the building or structure and shall contain such other information required by the code official.

**106.3.1 Construction documents.** Construction documents, engineering calculations, diagrams and other such data shall be submitted in two or more sets with each application for a permit. The code official shall require construction documents, computations and specifications to be prepared and designed by a registered design professional when required by state law. Construction documents shall be drawn to scale and shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that the work conforms to the provisions of this code. Construction documents for buildings more than two stories in height shall indicate where penetrations will be made for pipes, fittings and components and shall indicate the materials and methods for maintaining required structural safety, fire-resistance rating and fireblocking.

**Exception:** The code official shall have the authority to waive the submission of construction documents, calculations or other data if the nature of the work applied for is such that reviewing of construction documents is not necessary to determine compliance with this code.

**AC-106.4 By whom application is made.** Application/plans for permits shall be made by the owner/occupant or master plumber installing all or part of any plumbing system. The applicant shall meet all qualifications established by statute, or by rules and regulations promulgated by this Code. The

full name of and address of the applicant shall be stated in the application.

**Exceptions:**

1. Existing single-family dwellings: Any permit required by this Article to allow any work regulated by this Article may be issued to a bonafide owner who presently occupies an existing single-family dwelling, who intends to occupy the existing single-family dwelling and any of its accessory buildings, exclusively for private purposes, on the condition that the said owner personally purchase all material and perform all labor in connection therewith. Such privilege does not convey the right to violate any of the provisions of this Article, nor is it to be construed as exempting any such property owner from obtaining a permit, nor covering or concealing work in any manner until after it has been inspected by the Administrative Authority's inspectors, nor from payment of required fees.
2. Site Work: When a commercial or industrial site is being developed, registered professional engineers, registered architects, or registered master plumbers may file plans, obtain permits, and install and/or supervise the installation of sewers and water supply systems regulated by this Article from the point of public connection or proper disposal to a point five (5) feet from the building (commonly identified as "site work"). Where a new residential site is being developed and public sewers are not immediately available, registered professional engineers, registered architects or registered master plumbers may file plans, obtain permits and install and/or supervise the installation of common private sewers and common water supply systems up to the point of individual sewer or individual water service pipe connections to the common line. In addition, the requirements of Section AC-701.3 and AC-701.3.1 shall also be required.

**106.5 Permit issuance.** The application, construction documents and other data filed by an applicant for permit shall be reviewed by the code official. If the code official finds that the proposed work conforms to the requirements of this code and all laws and ordinances applicable thereto, and that the fees specified in Section 106.6 have been paid, a permit shall be issued to the applicant.

**106.5.1 Approved construction documents.** When the code official issues the permit where construction documents are required, the construction documents shall be endorsed in writing and stamped "APPROVED." Such *approved* construction documents shall not be changed, modified or altered without authorization from the code official. All work shall be done in accordance with the *approved* construction documents.

The code official shall have the authority to issue a permit for the construction of a part of a plumbing system before the entire construction documents for the whole system have been submitted or *approved*, provided adequate information and detailed statements have been filed

complying with all pertinent requirements of this code. The holders of such permit shall proceed at their own risk without assurance that the permit for the entire plumbing system will be granted.

**106.5.2 Validity.** The issuance of a permit or approval of construction documents shall not be construed to be a permit for, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of this code or any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. No permit presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code shall be valid.

The issuance of a permit based upon construction documents and other data shall not prevent the code official from thereafter requiring the correction of errors in said construction documents and other data or from preventing building operations being carried on thereunder when in violation of this code or of other ordinances of this jurisdiction.

**106.5.3 Expiration.** Every permit issued by the code official under the provisions of this code shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 180 days from the date of such permit, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days. Before such work can be recommenced, a new permit shall be first obtained and the fee therefor shall be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work, provided no changes have been made or will be made in the original construction documents for such work, and provided further that such suspension or abandonment has not exceeded 1 year.

**AC-106.5.4 Extensions.** Any permittee holding an unexpired permit shall have the right to apply for an extension of the time within which the permittee may commence work, when the permittee provides satisfactory reasons why the work cannot be commenced within the time required by the original permit. The Chief Plumbing Inspector and/or his designee shall extend the time for action by the permittee for a period not exceeding 180 days, upon the demonstration of good cause. No permit shall be extended more than once. The fee for extension shall be the equivalent of the plan fee.

**106.5.5 Suspension or revocation of permit.** The code official shall have the authority to suspend or revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this code wherever the permit is issued in error or on the basis of incorrect, inaccurate or incomplete information, or in violation of any ordinance or regulation or any of the provisions of this code.

**106.5.6 Retention of construction documents.** One set of *approved* construction documents shall be retained by the code official for a period of not less than 180 days from date of completion of the permitted work, or as required by state or local laws.

One set of *approved* construction documents shall be returned to the applicant, and said set shall be kept on the site of the building or work at all times during which the work authorized thereby is in progress.

**AC-106.5.7 Permission to proceed.** Plans filed shall not constitute permission to proceed. A permit must be obtained prior to commencing any plumbing work.

**AC-106.5.8 Performance of plumbing work.** No person, other than a licensed master plumber, a licensed journeyman plumber in the employ of a licensed master plumber, a registered plumbing apprentice in the employ of a licensed master plumber, or a bonafide owner presently occupying an existing single-family building shall install, alter, or make connections with any sewer, water, drain, or any pipe connected therewith; or alter the location of any existing plumbing fixtures, water distribution piping system or sewer drainage system.

**106.6 Fees.** A permit shall not be issued until the fees prescribed in Section 106.6.2 have been paid, and an amendment to a permit shall not be released until the additional fee, if any, due to an increase of the plumbing systems, has been paid.

**106.6.1 Work commencing before permit issuance.** Any person who commences any work on a plumbing system before obtaining the necessary permits shall be subject to 100 percent of the usual permit fee in addition to the required permit fees.

**AC-106.6.2 Fee schedule.** The fees for all plumbing work shall be as indicated on a fee schedule approved annually by the Board of Health.

**AC-106.6.3 Fee refunds.** The Chief Plumbing Inspector shall authorize fee refunds as follows:

1. Fixture fees before work has commenced.
2. No refunds shall be made on plan fees or after plumbing work has been commenced.
3. The Chief Plumbing Inspector shall not authorize the refunding of any fee paid, except upon written application filed by the original permittee not later than 180 days after the date of fee payment.

**AC-106.7 Registration and licensing of plumbers.** The Department shall issue licenses for Master and Journeyman Plumbers, as well as register apprentice plumbers. All licenses/registrations will be valid for a twelve (12) month period.

**AC-106.7.1 Licensing of plumbers.** The Department shall approve or disapprove applications for Journeyman and Master Plumbers, and shall register apprentice plumbers. The Department shall examine and license Journeyman and Master Plumbers.

**AC-106.7.2 Identification.** Proper identification, such as government issued photo ID, photo driver's license, and/or valid photo plumbers license must be carried and presented upon request to Department staff.

**AC-106.7.3 Valid master licenses.** No licensed master plumber shall do plumbing in the County of Allegheny unless a valid current permit to do such work has been issued by the Administrative Authority.

**AC-106.7.4 Valid journeyman and apprentice licenses.** No licensed master plumber shall employ any person who is not currently licensed as a plumber or registered as an apprentice plumber to perform plumbing work under any contract entered into by the licensed master plumber; and no licensed plumber or registered apprentice plumber shall perform any plumbing work except as supervised by a licensed master plumber.

**AC-106.7.5 "Registered Master Plumber" display.** All vehicles used by a master plumber in the operation of his business shall bear his name or the name of his company, and the words "Registered Master Plumber" or his license number, which shall be known as a HEALTH PERMIT number and may be abbreviated to H.P. and followed by his number in lettering not less than three (3) inches high.

**AC-106.7.6 Notice of change of business.** Every licensed master plumber shall immediately notify the Department of any change in the place of his business or upon the termination of his business.

**AC-106.7.7 Unauthorized use.** No person, firm, or corporation, carrying on the business of plumbing, shall allow his name to be used by any person not employed or contracted by that person, firm or corporation, directly or indirectly, either to obtain a permit or permits, or to do any work under his license.

**AC-106.7.8 Master plumber qualifications.** No master plumber's license shall be granted a journeyman plumber until he has had at least two (2) years experience as a licensed journeyman plumber and has successfully passed the required examination.

**AC-106.7.8.1 License designation.** Once a journeyman plumber takes the master plumber examination, successfully passes, and receives his master's license, he/she must remain a master plumber and may not revert to a journeyman plumber.

**AC-106.7.9 Journeyman plumber qualifications.** No journeyman plumber's license shall be granted a registered apprentice plumber until he has:

1. Acquired a minimum four (4) years experience or the equivalent of 8,000 hours worked;
2. Completed 576 hours of plumbing training at an accredited school, preferably within six (6) years of the beginning of the apprenticeship training; and
3. Passed the required examination.

A test qualification exemption may be granted to a registered apprentice plumber who has at least three (3) years and six (6) months' experience, who will take the Journeyman Plumbers' examination prior to completing this fourth (4th) year of training, provided that he submits to the Department, documentation that he will complete four (4) years work experience within six (6) months of passing the required examination.

**AC-106.7.9.1 Advanced standing examination.** Applicants for advanced standing examination must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Successful completion of a related training program consisting of at least one (1) school year of instruction.
2. Successful completion of related training provided by the military during active service.
3. Successful completion of college credits toward a major in a related field.
4. Successful completion of other comparable training/college credits satisfying the requirements of 1, 2, or 3.
5. Successful Completion of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution.

Credit granted shall be applicable to the first year of apprentice training only. A passing score of 75% is required on the advanced standing examination. If an applicant fails the examination, he may retake the examination once within thirty (30) days of the original examination date. The applicant will be required to pay an additional examination fee to retake the examination.

If an applicant is claiming college technical credits, an official transcript, with the university/technical school's raised or watermark seal and the registrar's signature on the transcript, must be submitted. The transcript must be mailed directly from the university or technical school to the Allegheny County Health Department Plumbing Program. A transcript that states "issued to the student" is not acceptable. A certificate indicating completion of a training program and military documents verifying training must be submitted if an applicant is claiming this training.

**AC-106.7.10 Apprentices.** All apprentice plumbers shall register with the Department within 30 days of the beginning of their apprenticeship training. Failure to do so may result in revocation of an apprentice's registration card.

**AC-106.7.11 Examinations.** The Department shall develop and conduct examinations as needed. Notice shall be given no less than two (2) weeks prior to the dates scheduled for the examinations in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in Allegheny County.

**AC-106.7.12 License renewal.** A licensed master or journeyman plumber desiring to continue in the business of plumbing, shall annually, within thirty (30) days of his birth date, apply to the Department for a renewal of his license and pay the annual license renewal fee as specified in the current fee schedule. No examination shall be required for the renewal of a master or journeyman license, provided proper application and payment is made in the time period specified above.

**AC-106.7.12.1 Inactive status.** A licensed master or journeyman plumber who has retired or is not engaged in the business of plumbing shall file with the Department written notice that he desires to voluntarily

assume inactive status and discontinue the business of plumbing. When a licensed master or journeyman plumber fails to pay the annual fee pursuant to Section AC-106.6.2.4, he becomes inactive by default.

**AC-106.7.12.2 Reinstatement from inactive status.** Any person who has assumed inactive status pursuant to Section AC-106.7.12.1 shall be reinstated to active status upon payment of any fee in effect for the year in which the reinstatement request is made, and for any and all annual registration fees that have not been paid since his last assumption of inactive status.

**AC-106.7.12.3 Reinstatement to active status with reexamination.** Any person who requests a transfer to active status after more than four (4) years on inactive status may be required to undergo, at the discretion of the Director, an examination as provided in Section AC-106.7.11.

**AC-106.7.13 Retirement.** A licensed Master or Journeyman Plumber who has retired shall file with the Department written notice that he voluntarily desires to retire. A retiree shall be considered inactive.

**AC-106.7.14 Revocation of license.** The Department may revoke any license issued under the provisions of this Article, if the Department finds that a license was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation or that the licensee has persistently violated any provision of this Article or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto. Before making such findings, the Department shall afford the licensee an opportunity for a hearing before the Director, and shall give the licensee at least ten (10) days notice of such hearing.

**AC-106.7.14.1 Reinstatement from revocation.** A person whose license has been revoked shall not be permitted to apply for reinstatement of his license within one year of the revocation date. Any person who applies for reinstatement shall be required to undergo an examination as determined by the Department.

**AC-106.7.15 Suspension of license.** The Director may suspend for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days any license issued under the provisions of this Article if the Director finds that the licensee has violated any provision of this Article or any rule or regulation adopted thereto. Before making such a finding, the Director shall afford the licensee an opportunity for a hearing before the Department and it shall give at least five (5) days notice of such hearing to the licensee.

**AC-106.7.15.1 Reinstatement with reexamination.** A person whose license has been suspended may be required to undergo an examination as shall be determined by the Chief Plumbing Inspector.

**AC-106.7.16 Nonresident license.** Any person, not residing in Allegheny County, desiring to do plumbing work in Allegheny County, who has been licensed by another state or political subdivision, may apply to the Department to take the Allegheny County plumbers' license examination, provided the applicant holds a similar license issued under licensing procedures equivalent to Allegheny County's.

The applicant shall pay the examination fees set forth in the current fee schedule.

**AC-106.7.16.1 Temporary reciprocal license.** Any nonresident desiring to do plumbing work in Allegheny County, who has been licensed by another state or political subdivision, may apply to the Department for a temporary reciprocal license. The Department shall issue the temporary reciprocal license provided the applicant holds a similar license issued under licensing procedures equivalent to Allegheny County's, which in the discretion of the Department, would merit the issuance of such a license. A temporary reciprocal license must be obtained for each plumbing permit sought by a nonresident plumber. A nonresident plumber may obtain licenses for such plumbing work for which he has contracted at the time of application for a temporary reciprocal license. No additional licenses shall be granted until the previous work has received final inspection and approval. The applicant shall pay the fees set forth in the current fee schedule.

**AC-106.7.17 Registration of plumbers and apprentices.** The Department shall maintain a register of all licensed Master and Journeyman Plumbers and registered Apprentice Plumbers. The register shall be open to public inspection in accordance with the rules, regulations or policies governing the inspection of other Departmental records.

**SECTION 107  
INSPECTIONS AND TESTING**

**107.1 General.** The code official is authorized to conduct such inspections as are deemed necessary to determine compliance with the provisions of this code. Construction or work for which a permit is required shall be subject to inspection by the code official, and such construction or work shall remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes until *approved*. Approval as a result of an inspection shall not be construed to be an approval of a violation of the provisions of this code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction. Inspections presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code or of other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid. It shall be the duty of the permit applicant to cause the work to remain accessible and exposed for inspection purposes. Neither the code official nor the jurisdiction shall be liable for expense entailed in the removal or replacement of any material required to allow inspection.

**107.2 Required inspections and testing.** The code official, upon notification from the permit holder or the permit holder's agent, shall make the following inspections and such other inspections as necessary, and shall either release that portion of the construction or shall notify the permit holder or an agent of any violations that must be corrected. The holder of the permit shall be responsible for the scheduling of such inspections.

1. Underground inspection shall be made after trenches or ditches are excavated and bedded, piping installed, and before any backfill is put in place.
2. Rough-in inspection shall be made after the roof, framing, fireblocking, firestopping, draftstopping and bracing is in place and all sanitary, storm and water

distribution piping is roughed-in, and prior to the installation of wall or ceiling membranes.

3. Final inspection shall be made after the building is complete, all plumbing fixtures are in place and properly connected, and the structure is ready for occupancy.

AC-4.Plumbing work for which a permit is required shall not be covered or concealed in any manner until after it has been inspected and approved by the Department inspectors.

AC-5.After an inspection request has been received by the Department, an inspection shall be authorized. The Department shall exercise best efforts to complete the inspection within twenty-four (24) working hours. Inspection requests received on weekends or holidays will be deferred until the first regular work day unless they concern emergency conditions or a street closure. The person listed on a permit must request the final inspection.

**107.2.1 Other inspections.** In addition to the inspections specified above, the code official is authorized to make or require other inspections of any construction work to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this code and other laws that are enforced.

**107.2.2 Inspection requests.** It shall be the duty of the holder of the permit or their duly authorized agent to notify the code official when work is ready for inspection. It shall be the duty of the permit holder to provide *access* to and means for inspections of such work that are required by this code.

**107.2.3 Approval required.** Work shall not be done beyond the point indicated in each successive inspection without first obtaining the approval of the code official. The code official, upon notification, shall make the requested inspections and shall either indicate the portion of the construction that is satisfactory as completed, or notify the permit holder or his or her agent wherein the same fails to comply with this code. Any portions that do not comply shall be corrected and such portion shall not be covered or concealed until authorized by the code official.

**107.2.4 Approved agencies.** Reserved.

**107.2.5 Evaluation and follow-up inspection services.** Prior to the approval of a closed, prefabricated plumbing system and the issuance of a plumbing permit, the code official shall require the submittal of an evaluation report on each prefabricated plumbing system indicating the complete details of the plumbing system, including a description of the system and its components, the basis upon which the plumbing system is being evaluated, test results and similar information, and other data as necessary for the code official to determine conformance to this code.

**107.2.5.1 Evaluation service.** The code official shall designate the evaluation service of an *approved* agency as the evaluation agency, and review such agency's evaluation report for adequacy and conformance to this code.

**107.2.5.2 Follow-up inspection.** Except where ready *access* is provided to all plumbing systems, service

equipment and accessories for complete inspection at the site without disassembly or dismantling, the code official shall conduct the frequency of in-plant inspections necessary to ensure conformance to the *approved* evaluation report or shall designate an independent, *approved* inspection agency to conduct such inspections. The inspection agency shall furnish the code official with the follow-up inspection manual and a report of inspections upon request, and the plumbing system shall have an identifying label permanently affixed to the system indicating that factory inspections have been performed.

**107.2.5.3 Test and inspection records.** All required test and inspection records shall be available to the code official at all times during the fabrication of the plumbing system and the erection of the building, or such records as the code official designates shall be filed.

**107.3 Special inspections.** Special inspections of *alternative engineered design* plumbing systems shall be conducted in accordance with Sections 107.3.1 and 107.3.2.

**107.3.1 Periodic inspection.** The registered design professional or designated inspector shall periodically inspect and observe the *alternative engineered design* to determine that the installation is in accordance with the approved construction documents. All discrepancies shall be brought to the immediate attention of the plumbing contractor for correction. Records shall be kept of all inspections.

**107.3.2 Written report.** The registered design professional shall submit a final report in writing to the code official upon completion of the installation, certifying that the *alternative engineered design* conforms to the *approved* construction documents. A notice of approval for the plumbing system shall not be issued until a written certification has been submitted.

**107.4 Testing.** Plumbing work and systems shall be tested as required in Section 312 and in accordance with Sections 107.4.1 through 107.4.3. Tests shall be made by the permit holder and observed by the code official.

**107.4.1 New, altered, extended or repaired systems.** New plumbing systems and parts of existing systems that have been altered, extended or repaired shall be tested as prescribed herein to disclose leaks and defects, except that testing is not required in the following cases:

1. In any case that does not include addition to, replacement, alteration or relocation of any water supply, drainage or vent piping.
2. In any case where plumbing equipment is set up temporarily for exhibition purposes.

**107.4.2 Equipment, material and labor for tests.** All equipment, material and labor required for testing a plumbing system or part thereof shall be furnished by the permit holder.

**107.4.3 Reinspection and testing.** Where any work or installation does not pass any initial test or inspection, the necessary corrections shall be made to comply with this

code. The work or installation shall then be resubmitted to the code official for inspection and testing.

**AC-107.4.3.1 Reinspection fees.** A reinspection fee shall be charged when an inspection cannot be completed because the work has not progressed sufficiently to allow for testing, as defined in the relevant sections, or for final inspection. The fee, as listed on the current fee schedule, must be paid prior to any subsequent reinspections.

**107.5 Approval.** After the prescribed tests and inspections indicate that the work complies in all respects with this code, a notice of approval shall be issued by the code official.

**107.5.1 Revocation.** The code official is authorized to, in writing, suspend or revoke a notice of approval issued under the provisions of this code wherever the notice is issued in error, or on the basis of incorrect information supplied, or where it is determined that the building or structure, premise or portion thereof is in violation of any ordinance or regulation or any of the provisions of this code.

**107.6 Temporary connection.** The code official shall have the authority to authorize the temporary connection of the building or system to the utility source for the purpose of testing plumbing systems or for use under a temporary certificate of occupancy.

**107.7 Connection of service utilities.** A person shall not make connections from a utility, source of energy, fuel, power, water system or *sewer* system to any building or system that is regulated by this code for which a permit is required until authorized by the code official.

## SECTION 108 VIOLATIONS

**108.1 Unlawful acts.** It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect, construct, alter, repair, remove, demolish or utilize any plumbing system, or cause same to be done, in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this code.

**108.2 Notice of violation.** The code official shall serve a notice of violation or order to the person responsible for the erection, installation, alteration, extension, repair, removal or demolition of plumbing work in violation of the provisions of this code, or in violation of a detail statement or the *approved* construction documents thereunder, or in violation of a permit or certificate issued under the provisions of this code. Such order shall direct the discontinuance of the illegal action or condition and the abatement of the violation.

**AC-108.2.1 Issuance of notices.** Whenever the Director determines that there has been a violation of any provisions of this Article, he/she shall give notice of the violation to the person responsible for compliance. The notice shall:

1. Be in writing;
2. Include a statement of the reason why it is being issued;

3. Permit a reasonable amount of time for compliance; and
4. Inform the person responsible for compliance of his right to a hearing.

**AC-108.2.2 Service of notice.** The notice shall be served upon the person responsible for compliance with these regulations by any of the following:

1. By handing a copy to the responsible person, or by handing a copy to the persons designated in Rule 402 of the Rules of Civil Procedure promulgated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, or
2. By sending a copy to the responsible person's last known address by regular mail, or
3. By posting a copy in a conspicuous place in or about the premises.

**AC-108.3 Prosecution of violation.** In the event of the failure to comply with an order issued pursuant to any section of this Code, the Director may institute appropriate actions or proceedings at law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate the violation, or he may cause the order to be carried out at the expense of the County. The County may recover the amount of the expense by action of assumpsit, or, where appropriate in the manner provided by law for the collection of claims under the Act of May 16, 1923, P.L. 207, or any amendment or reenactment thereof.

**AC-108.4 Violation penalties.** Any person who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof shall be guilty of the offenses listed below. For the purposes of this section, violations on separate dates shall be considered separate offenses. Each violation of a separate subsection or section of this Article shall constitute a separate offense.

**AC-108.4.1 Summary offenses.** Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Article or any rule or regulation of the Allegheny County Health Department, or who interferes with the Director or any other agent of the Department in the discharge of his official duties, shall, for the first offense, upon conviction thereof in a summary proceeding before any District Magistrate in Allegheny County, be sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution and a fine of not less than thirty dollars (\$30) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300) and, in default thereof, shall be subject to imprisonment for not less than ten (10) days and not more than thirty (30) days.

**AC-108.4.2 Misdemeanors.** Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Article or any rule or regulation of the Allegheny County Health Department, or who interferes with the Director or his or her representative in the discharge of his or her official duties, convicted of a second or subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1000) or to undergo imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year, or both.

**AC-108.4.3 Civil penalties.** A person who violates any of the provisions of this Article or any order issued by the Director or his designee under this Article, is subject to a

Civil Penalty in accordance with the provisions of the Department's Rules and Regulations, Article XVI, "Civil Penalties."

**AC-108.5 Stop work orders.** Upon notice of the Chief Plumbing inspector or his designee, work on any plumbing system that is being done contrary to the provisions of this Code or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, shall immediately cease. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, to the owner's agent, or to the person doing the work. The notice shall state the conditions under which work is authorized to resume. Where an emergency exists, the Chief Plumbing Inspector or his designee shall not be required to give written notice prior to ordering the work to stop. Any person who continues any work on or about a structure after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be subject to enforcement action.

**108.6 Abatement of violation.** The imposition of the penalties herein prescribed shall not preclude the legal officer of the jurisdiction from instituting appropriate action to prevent unlawful construction or to restrain, correct or abate a violation, or to prevent illegal occupancy of a building, structure or premises, or to stop an illegal act, conduct, business or utilization of the plumbing on or about any premises.

**108.7 Unsafe plumbing.** Any plumbing regulated by this code that is unsafe or that constitutes a fire or health hazard, unsanitary condition, or is otherwise dangerous to human life is hereby declared unsafe. Any use of plumbing regulated by this code constituting a hazard to safety, health or public welfare by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, fire hazard, disaster, damage or abandonment is hereby declared an unsafe use. Any such unsafe equipment is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and shall be abated by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or removal.

**108.7.1 Authority to condemn equipment.** Whenever the code official determines that any plumbing, or portion thereof, regulated by this code has become hazardous to life, health or property or has become insanitary, the code official shall order in writing that such plumbing either be removed or restored to a safe or sanitary condition. A time limit for compliance with such order shall be specified in the written notice. No person shall use or maintain defective plumbing after receiving such notice.

When such plumbing is to be disconnected, written notice as prescribed in Section 108.2 shall be given. In cases of immediate danger to life or property, such disconnection shall be made immediately without such notice.

**108.7.2 Authority to disconnect service utilities.** The code official shall have the authority to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by the technical codes in case of an emergency, where necessary, to eliminate an immediate danger to life or property. Where possible, the owner and occupant of the building, structure or service system shall be notified of the decision to disconnect utility service prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnecting, the owner or occupant of the building, structure or

service systems shall be notified in writing, as soon as practical thereafter.

**108.7.3 Connection after order to disconnect.** No person shall make connections from any energy, fuel, power supply or water distribution system or supply energy, fuel or water to any equipment regulated by this code that has been disconnected or ordered to be disconnected by the code official or the use of which has been ordered to be discontinued by the code official until the code official authorizes the reconnection and use of such equipment.

When any plumbing is maintained in violation of this code, and in violation of any notice issued pursuant to the provisions of this section, the code official shall institute any appropriate action to prevent, restrain, correct or abate the violation.

**SECTION 109  
MEANS OF APPEAL**

**AC-109.1 Application for appeal.** Any person aggrieved by any action taken by the Director and/or his or her designee may request a hearing within ten (10) days in accordance with the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, Article XI, "Hearings and Appeals."

**SECTION AC-110  
PLUMBING ADVISORY BOARD**

**AC-110.1 General.** The Board of Health shall appoint a Plumbing Advisory Board to consist of the following ten (10) members:

- One (1) representative of a City of the Second Class
- One (1) representative who shall be a Licensed Professional Engineer
- One (1) representative who shall be a Licensed Architect
- One (1) representative who shall be a Licensed Master Plumber
- One (1) representative of the Allegheny County League of Municipalities
- One (1) representative representing the Allied Trades
- One (1) representative from the Home Builder's Association
- Two (2) representatives who shall each be a Licensed Journeyman Plumber
- One (1) citizen's representative not affiliated with the above representative classifications

**AC-110.2 Terms of appointments.** The Plumbing Advisory Board shall be Allegheny County residents consisting of ten (10) members as specified in Section AC-110.1. Two (2) members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, two (2) members for a term of two (2) years and the remainder for a term of three (3) years. Upon expiration of any term, all succeeding terms shall be for a term of three (3) years, or until successors are appointed and qualified. Terms shall be limited to two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. Excessive

absenteeism shall be cause for dismissal of any member. If a member has been dismissed or is absent due to death or extended illness, a new member shall be appointed.

**AC-110.3 Election of officers.** The Plumbing Advisory Board shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman annually, and shall have the power to elect new officers in the event of a vacancy. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the presently appointed voting members of the Board. It shall meet within thirty (30) days following the adoption of this Article, and after, at the call of the Chairman, or at such times as may be necessary for proper performance of its duties, but at least once during any six-month period. The Board of Health shall appoint additional members to fill all vacancies. The Director and the Chief Plumbing Inspector shall be ex-officio members of the Board without the right to vote. The Chief Plumbing Inspector shall serve as Secretary for the Plumbing Advisory Board.

**AC-110.4 Duties of the Plumbing Advisory Board.** The Plumbing Advisory Board shall advise the Director in administering the provisions of this Article.