

2011 Changes to the Physical Connection Regulations

Updated 5/5/2011

The following information provides guidance on the changes to the Physical Connection Regulations that were enacted in 2011. The version published in the New Jersey Register is the definitive version and in case of discrepancies shall be the determining text.

Courtesy copy of the regulations including sub chapter 10 that covers Physical Connections is available at: http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/rules/njac7_10.pdf

1. Cost of Permits.

No changes to permit fees. They remain at:

- Initial Permit Fee = \$150
- Renewal Fee = \$200
- Administrative Changes to Permit = Free.
- Addition of new device(s) to permit = Submit an Initial Permit application \$150
- Removal of device(s) from permit = Free
- Permit Cancellation = Free

2. Testing of Backflow Prevention Devices.

- From January 2012 only Certified Testers that hold a valid backflow prevention device tester certificate shall do the initial test (new permit) and quarterly testing (permit renewals) required for devices covered by Department issued Physical Connection Permits.
- Tests done by Owners representative and witnessed by water system will not be accepted for the permit renewals after 2012.
- If you need to find or check on a certification, list of testers and Certifying Agencies are available at: http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/doc/backflow_cert.doc
- Please note the Certified Testers can be employed by the organization owning the facility or be an independent contractor / agency.
- The listed Certifying Agencies also provide training so you or an employee can be trained as a Certified Tester.
- From 2011 the quarterly testing periods will be synchronized with the Calendar Year so that:
 - First Quarter is January 1st to March 31st
 - Second Quarter is April 1st to June 30th
 - Third Quarter is July 1st to September 30th
 - Fourth Quarter is October 1st to December 31st.
- No changes to the testing method.

3. Documents you need to retain

From the start of the 2011 Permit year (April 1st 2011) you are required to keep copies of permits and the completed quarterly test certificates at the facility with the backflow prevention device for at least five years.

The document retention requirement has been added because the quarterly test certificates will not be required to be submitted to the Department from 2012 and therefore you will need to maintain the records that the device is permitted, tested and functioning correctly.

This information may be requested by a Department Inspector, Health Officer and or Water System official.

4. Initial Permits

No Changes

5. Permit Renewals

- For the April 2011 Renewal Application.
 - No changes
- For the 2011 permit year
 - Quarterly testing periods will be synchronized with calendar year.
 - Revised renewal form for 2012 will provided that will allow the Certified Tester to sign form quarterly instead of submitting the test certificates.
 - Retain permit and test certificates at Facility for five years.
- For the 2012 Renewal Application
 - Submit the Revised Renewal Form provided with the 2011 permit with the enhanced Owner Certification and payment. Prior versions of form will not be acceptable.
 - If Certified Tester has Signed Off on each quarters test on the revised form then no quarterly certificates need to be submitted.
 - If Certified Tester has Signed Off on each quarters test on the revised form then no Certifications by Water Company or Health Department are required.
 - If Certified Tester was not used then quarterly test certificates and Water System and Health Department Certifications to be submitted.
- For the 2012 permit.
 - Certified Tester shall test the devices. Tests by owner's representative with Water System witness will no longer be acceptable.
 - Retain permit and test certificates at Facility for five years.
- For the 2013 and future Renewal Applications
 - Unless the Electronic (Internet) Submission process has been implemented.
 - Submit the fully completed Renewal Application form and payment.
 - No quarterly test certificates or Water System / Health Dept Certifications.

6. Permit Modifications

No Changes