

Topic: When plumbing code versus DWS distribution rules apply

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Rules: The applicability of all our rules, specific definitions below, as well as 0050(8) and (9), and Cross connection rules.

OAR 333-061-0020(56) “Distribution system” means the portion of the water system in which water is stored or conveyed from the water treatment plant or other supply point to the premises of a consumer.

0020(136) “Point of Delivery” means the point of connection between a public water system and the user’s water system. Beyond the point of delivery, the Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code applies. See “service connection.”

0020(147) “Premise” means real estate and the structures on it.

0020(171) “Service connection” means the piping connection by means of which water is conveyed from a distribution main of a public water system to a user’s premises. For a community water system, the portion of the service connection that conveys water from the distribution main to the user’s property line, or to the service meter, where provided, is under the jurisdiction of the water supplier.

Issue: When do Drinking Water rules apply to piping, and when does plumbing code apply? Specifically, when do we apply construction standards during the plan review process on a new system, when do we fill out the distribution questions on a water system survey, when do we apply backflow prevention rules.

Decision: The plumbing code has jurisdiction over piping and appurtenances on private property. OAR distribution rules apply in public right-of-way or on private property where there is an easement. However, if a public health hazard is identified anywhere in the system, DWS should identify the hazard and has authority to require correction.

In a transient system on one property, the source, treatment, and storage are under DWS jurisdiction, but not any piping (with the exception of backflow prevention devices as explained below), since it is already on the user's premise, and under the jurisdiction of the plumbing code.

The water supplier's responsibility for cross connection control includes the source, centralized treatment, storage, and distribution piping under the water supplier's control, ending at the point of delivery to the water user's premise. DWS rules require all public water systems to protect the system from cross connections, by conducting inspections and ensuring devices are tested. The water supplier needs to track both premise isolation devices as well as internal devices where the premise is not protected with a backflow preventer and make sure they are tested annually.

Rationale: This document is intended as clarification of existing rules rather than an interpretation.