

TITLE 675 FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION

Notice of First Public Comment Period

LSA Document #26-128

INDIANA PLUMBING CODE

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

The Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission (FPBSC) is soliciting public comment on amending rules at 675 IAC 16-1.4-3 and 675 IAC 16-1.4-7 concerning the Indiana Plumbing Code.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Regulatory Analysis: 20260520-IR-675260128RAA

Notice of Public Hearing: 20260520-IR-675260128PHA

CITATIONS AFFECTED: 675 IAC 16-1.4-3; 675 IAC 16-1.4-7

AUTHORITY: IC 22-13-2

OVERVIEW

Basic Purpose and Background

The current Indiana Plumbing Code under 675 IAC 16-1.4 was adopted and updated in 2012. These rules establish the regulatory framework that set forth enforceable standards for plumbing systems and components to protect life, health, and safety of building occupants and the public.

In 2011, U.S. Congress passed the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, which revised the definition of "lead-free" by lowering the maximum lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products - such as pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures - from 8% to a weighted average of 0.25%. The act established a delayed effective date of January 4, 2014, providing a three-year time frame for affected parties to transition to the new requirements.

It is necessary to amend the 2012 Indiana Plumbing Code to implement the new definition created by Congress. If the lead-free definition is not adopted, Indiana risks losing federal U.S. EPA grant funding to support the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) drinking water program. If IDEM's drinking water program does not receive federal grant funding, there will be a direct impact on public health for Indiana's residents.

This proposed rule was drafted by an internal working group at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and has taken into account comments and concerns received by interested stakeholders.

For purposes of IC 4-22-2-28.1, small businesses affected by this rulemaking may contact the Small Business Regulatory Coordinator:

Alyssa Schroeder
Legislative Director
Indiana Department of Homeland Security
302 West Washington Street, Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 775-2607
aschroeder1@dhs.in.gov

For purposes of IC 4-22-2-28.1, the Small Business Ombudsman designated by IC 5-28-17-6 is:

Caleb Wakeman
Small Business Ombudsman
Indiana Economic Development Corporation
One North Capitol, Suite 700
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(463) 269-2670
ombudsman@iedc.in.gov

Resources available to regulated entities through the small business ombudsman include the ombudsman's duties stated in IC 5-28-17-6, specifically IC 5-28-17-6(9), investigating and attempting to resolve any matter regarding compliance by a small business with a law, rule, or policy administered by a state agency, either as a party to a proceeding or as a mediator.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

FPBSC is soliciting public comment on the proposed rule. Comments may be submitted in one of the following ways:

(1) LSA Document #26-128 Indiana Plumbing Code
Indiana Department of Homeland Security
C/O Legal
Indiana Government Center South, Room E208
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

(2) By email to legal@dhs.in.gov. To confirm timely delivery of submitted comments, please request a document receipt when sending the electronic mail and include the following subject line: Public Comment on LSA Doc #26-128. PLEASE NOTE: Email comments will not be considered part of the official written comment period unless they are sent to the address indicated in this notice.

(3) Attend scheduled public hearing.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE

All comments must be postmarked or time-stamped not later than June 19, 2026.

The rule, Regulatory Analysis, appendices referenced in the Regulatory Analysis, and materials incorporated by reference (if applicable) are on file at the Department of Homeland Security, 302 West Washington Street, Room E208, Indianapolis, Indiana and are available for public inspection. Copies of the rule, Regulatory Analysis, and appendices referenced in the Regulatory Analysis are available at the Department of Homeland Security office.

If FPBSC does not receive substantive comments during the public comment period or public hearing, the rule may be adopted with text that is the same as or does not substantially differ from the text of the proposed rule published in this notice.

PROPOSED RULE

SECTION 1. 675 IAC 16-1.4-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

675 IAC 16-1.4-3 Chapter 2; definitions

Authority: IC 22-13-2

Affected: IC 10-19-2; IC 22-12; IC 22-13; IC 22-14; IC 22-15; IC 25-4; IC 25-31; IC 36-7-2-9

Sec. 3. Chapter 2 is amended to read as follows:

(a) Amend Section 201.3 by deleting the text and inserting the following: Where terms are not defined in this code and are defined in the Indiana Building Code (675 IAC 13), the Indiana Electrical Code (675 IAC 17), the Indiana Mechanical Code (675 IAC 18), the Indiana Fire Code (675 IAC 22), or the Indiana Fuel Gas Code (675 IAC 25), such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in those codes.

(b) Amend Section 202 Definitions, as follows:

(1) Delete the definition of Approved and insert to read as follows:

APPROVED as to materials, equipment, design of products, and types of construction, means acceptance by the code official by one (1) of the following methods:

- (i) investigation or tests conducted by nationally recognized authorities; or
- (ii) investigation or tests conducted by technical or scientific

organizations; or

- (iii) nationally accepted principles.

The investigation, tests, or principles shall establish that the materials, equipment, design of products, and construction are safe for their intended purposes.

(2) Amend the definition of Backflow to read as follows: BACKFLOW means the reversal of flow of water or mixtures of water and other liquids, gases, or other substances into the distribution pipes of the potable supply of water from any source or sources.

(3) Add the definition of Backpressure to read as follows: BACKPRESSURE means any elevation of the pressure in the downstream piping system (by pump, elevation of piping, steam pressure, air pressure, etc.) above the supply pressure at the point of consideration, which would cause or tend to cause a reversal of the normal flow direction.

(4) Amend the definition of Building to delete the text and insert as follows: BUILDING means any structure occupied or intended for supporting or sheltering any occupancy.

(5) Delete the definition of Code Official and insert to read as follows: CODE OFFICIAL means the Division of Fire and Building Safety, the local building official as authorized under IC 36-7-2-9 and the local ordinance.

(6) Amend the definition of Dead End to delete the text and insert as follows: DEAD END means a pipe that is terminated at a developed length of two (2) feet (609.6 mm) or more by means of a plug or other closed fitting, except where serving a clean out extension to an accessible area.

(7) Add the definition of Division of Fire and Building Safety to read as follows: DIVISION OF FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY means the Division of Fire and Building Safety of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security created pursuant to IC 10-19-2.

(8) Add the definition of Gray Water to read as follows: GRAY WATER means waste water discharged from lavatories, bathtubs, showers, clothes, washers, laundry trays, condensate cooling coils, and evaporators.

(9) Add the definition of Indiana Building Code to read as follows: INDIANA BUILDING CODE means the Indiana Building Code (675 IAC 13) in effect in Indiana at the time of construction, remodeling, alteration, or addition of a Class 1 Structure, except for townhouses, or the Indiana Residential Code (675 IAC 14) for Class 2 structures and Class 1 townhouses, in effect at the time of the construction, addition, or alteration of the plumbing system.

(10) Add the definition of Indiana Electrical Code to read as follows: INDIANA ELECTRICAL CODE means the Indiana Electrical Code (675 IAC 17) in effect at the time of construction, remodeling, alteration, or addition of a Class 1 Structure.

(11) Add the definition of ICC Electrical Code: See the Indiana Electrical Code.

(12) Add the definition of Indiana Energy Conservation Code to read as follows: INDIANA ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE (675 IAC 19) means the Indiana Energy Conservation Code in effect at the time of construction, remodeling, alteration, or addition of a Class 1 Structure.

(13) Add the definition of Indiana Mechanical Code to read as follows: INDIANA MECHANICAL CODE means the Indiana Mechanical Code (675 IAC 18) in effect at the time of construction, remodeling, alteration, or addition of a Class 1 Structure.

(14) Add the definition of Indiana Plumbing Code to read as follows: INDIANA PLUMBING CODE means the Indiana Plumbing Code (675 IAC 16) in effect at the time of construction, remodeling, alteration, or addition of a Class 1 Structure.

(15) Add the definition of International Building Code to read as follows: INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE: See the Indiana Building Code.

(16) Add the definition of International Energy Conservation Code to read as follows: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE: See the Indiana Energy Conservation Code.

(17) Add the definition of International Mechanical Code to read as follows: International Mechanical Code: See the Indiana Mechanical Code.

(18) Add the definition of International Plumbing Code to read as follows: INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE: See the Indiana Plumbing Code.

(19) Amend the definition of Labeled to delete the text and insert as follows: LABELED means equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying

mark of an organization engaged in product evaluation, that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials, and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

(20) Amend the definition of Lead-Free Pipe and Fittings to read as follows: LEAD-FREE PIPE AND FITTINGS: Before July 1, 2025, containing not more than eight percent (8%) lead. On or after July 1, 2025, containing not more than eight percent (8%) lead for water supply pipe and fittings and containing not more than twenty-five hundredths percent (0.25%) weighted average lead content for drinking water pipe and fittings.

—~~(20)~~ **(21)** Amend the definition of Listed to delete the text and insert as follows: LISTED means equipment or materials included in a list published by an organization engaged in product evaluation, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials, and whose listing states either that the equipment or material meets appropriate standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specified manner.

—~~(21)~~ **(22)** Delete the definition of Plumbing and insert to read as follows: PLUMBING means the practice, materials, and fixtures utilized in the installation, extension, and alteration of all piping, fixtures, plumbing appliances, and plumbing appurtenances, within or on the same property of the structure, in connection with sanitary drainage or storm drainage facilities; venting systems; and public or private water supply systems.

—~~(22)~~ **(23)** Amend **the** definition of Registered Design Professional to delete the text and insert as follows: REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL. An architect who is registered under IC 25-4 or a professional engineer who is registered under IC 25-31. If a registered design professional is not required by 675 IAC 12-6 or 675 IAC 15, ~~then~~ it means the owner.

—~~(23)~~ **(24)** Amend the definition of Swimming Pool to read as follows: See Indiana Swimming Pool Code, 675 IAC 20-1.1.

—~~(24)~~ **(25)** Add the definition of Townhouse to read as follows: TOWNHOUSE means a single family dwelling constructed in a row of attached units separated by property lines and with open space on at least two (2) sides, and is regulated by the Indiana Residential Code (675 IAC 14) as a Class 1 structure.

—~~(25)~~ **(26)** Add the definition of Water Closet to read as follows: WATER CLOSET means a water-flushed plumbing fixture designed to receive human waste directly from the user of the fixture.

—~~(26)~~ **(27)** Delete the definition of Water Main and insert to read as follows: WATER MAIN means water supply pipe or system of pipes for public or community use.

(Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission; 675 IAC 16-1.4-3; filed Sep 25, 2012, 2:42 p.m.: 20121024-IR-675110448FRA, eff 90 days after filing with the Publisher; readopted filed Jul 3, 2018, 2:22 p.m.: 20180801-IR-675180204RFA; readopted filed Jun 10, 2024, 8:09 a.m.: 20240710-IR-675230794RFA)

SECTION 2. 675 IAC 16-1.4-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

675 IAC 16-1.4-7 Chapter 6; water supply and distribution

Authority: IC 22-13-2

Affected: IC 22-12; IC 22-13; IC 22-14; IC 22-15; IC 36-7-2-9

Sec. 7. Chapter 6 is amended as follows:

(a) Delete Section 602.3 in its entirety without substitution.

(b) Amend Section 604.9 to read as follows:

(1) Add a new second sentence as follows: An air chamber is not a water hammer arrestor.

(2) Delete the last sentence in its entirety without substitution.

(c) Add Section 605.2.1 to read as follows: 605.2.1 Lead Content of Drinking Water Pipe and Fittings. Pipe, pipe fittings, joints, valves, faucets, and fixture fittings utilized to supply water for drinking or cooking purposes shall comply with NSF 372 and shall have a weighted average lead content of twenty-five hundredths percent (0.25%) or less.

—(e) **(d)** Amend Table 605.3, WATER SERVICE PIPE, under “copper or alloy tubing” by deleting “M or WM”.

—(d) **(e)** Delete Section 605.3.1 without substitution.

—(e) **(f)** Amend Table 605.5, by inserting “Cross-linked” in front of “Polyethylene (PEX-AL-PEX)”.

—(f) **(g)** Amend Section 605.22.2 to read as follows: after “A”, delete “purple” and after “solvent cement”, delete “not purple in color”.

—(g) **(h)** Delete Section 606.4 without substitution.

—(h) **(i)** Amend Section 607.1 to add an exception to read as follows:

Exception: An ASSE 1070 point of use device may be omitted if the fixture is supplied with tempered water through an ASSE 1017 master mixing valve.

—(i) **(j)** Amend Section 607.3.2 to add a second sentence to read as follows: When thermal expansion tanks are used for this purpose, there shall be no valves installed between the water heating appliance and the expansion tank.

—(j) **(k)** Amend Table 608.1, APPLICATION OF BACKFLOW PREVENTERS, “Backflow preventer for carbonated beverage machines”, to delete “low hazard” and insert “high hazard”.

—(k) **(l)** Add Section 608.1.1 to read as follows: The owner of the structure shall have the backflow prevention assembly tested at the time of installation and after relocation.

—(l) **(m)** Add Section 608.1.2 to read as follows: Backflow preventers for hot water over one hundred ten (110) degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) shall be a listed type, designed to operate at temperatures of one hundred ten (110) degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) or more without rendering any portion of the assembly inoperable.

—(m) **(n)** Amend Section 608.14.1 to delete the text and insert as follows: Location of backflow preventers. Access and clearance shall be provided for the required testing. Access and clearance shall require a minimum of twelve (12) inches (305 mm) between the lowest portion of the assembly and grade, floor, or platform. Installations elevated more than five (5) feet (1,524 mm) above the floor or grade shall be provided with a permanent platform complying with the structural requirements and fire resistive requirements of the Indiana Building Code. Reduced pressure principle backflow preventers and reduced pressure detector assembly backflow preventers shall be installed horizontally, unless otherwise listed, at a location where any leakage from the relief port will be noticed and not subject the backflow preventer to flooding.

—(n) **(o)** Delete the text of Section 608.15.4 and insert as follows: Openings and outlets shall be protected by atmospheric type or pressure type vacuum breakers. The critical level of the atmospheric type vacuum breaker shall be set a minimum of six (6) inches (152 mm) above the flood level rim of the fixture or device. Pressure type vacuum breakers shall be set a minimum of twelve (12) inches (304 mm) above all downstream piping and outlets. Fill valves shall be set in accordance with Section 425.3.1. Vacuum breakers shall not be installed under exhaust hoods or

similar locations that will contain toxic fumes or vapors. Pipe-applied atmospheric-type vacuum breakers shall be installed not less than six (6) inches (152 mm), and twelve (12) inches (304 mm) for pressure-type vacuum breakers, above the flood level rim of the fixture, receptor, or device served.

—~~(o)~~ **(p)** Amend Section 608.16.1 to delete the text and insert as follows: The water supply connection to beverage dispensers shall be protected against **the** backflow by a listed reduced pressure principle backflow preventer. Copper shall not be used downstream from the backflow preventer.

—~~(p)~~ **(q)** Amend Section 608.16.3 as follows: after “transfer fluid”, add “(non-potable water)”, and after “nontoxic transfer fluid”, add “(potable water)”.

—~~(q)~~ **(r)** Amend Section 608.16.4 to delete the exceptions without substitution.

—~~(r)~~ **(s)** Amend Section 608.16.5 as follows: after “A valve”, insert “including system zone valves”.

—~~(s)~~ **(t)** Delete Section 608.17 in its entirety without substitution.

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Documents Incorporated by Reference: None Received by Publisher

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