

Construction Industry Communication #15

From: Amit Ghosh, Chief Building Official
Re: Disinfection of Potable Water System
Date: July 16, 2020 (rev. 9/08/2022)

Background: Ohio Plumbing Code (OPC) section 610 requires disinfection of new potable water distribution systems using the procedure described in AWWA standard C651 or C652, or as described in OPC section 610. All methods require verification via bacteriological examination that the system is free of contaminants.

Memorandum: To ensure OPC 610 is met and new potable water systems are free from contamination, the Department of Building and Zoning Services (BZS) will require a report from an approved laboratory provided to the plumbing inspector during an inspection for a requested partial Certificate of Occupancy or a Final inspection. *The water sample and test shall have been completed no earlier than 10 working days prior to the inspection request.*

A list of approved laboratories can be found at the link below:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/28/documents/labcert/Combined-Lab-List.pdf>

Below are examples of when a disinfection report will be expected to be provided:

1. All new construction
2. Additions to any existing systems
3. Replacement of existing systems or significant portions thereof

Due to the fact that most buildings are not occupied within 4 days of acquiring a partial Certificate of Occupancy or Final inspection and bacteria growth within the potable water distribution system can begin within 4 days if the water has not been used as intended, it is recommended that the entire building potable water system be thoroughly flushed immediately before it will be occupied. It is the responsibility of the Owner or Owner's Representative to ensure this occurs.