



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 200
[2009 Senate Bill 267]

Plumbing Regulation: Stormwater Use Systems and Reclaimed Water Systems

2009 Wisconsin Act 200 revises the application of the regulation of plumbing under ch. 145, Stats. The principal revisions consist of: (1) expanding the definition of “plumbing” to include reclaimed water systems, stormwater use systems, and certain associated piping; and (2) expanding the authority of the holder of a restricted plumber’s license to include certain work on such systems.

Definition of “Plumbing”

The definition of “plumbing” includes two senses of the word, the physical plumbing systems and the act of working on those systems. In addition to other wording changes, the Act revises the definition as follows:

- Specifies that “plumbing” *includes* the following:
 - Reclaimed water and stormwater use systems, in addition to water supply, distribution, and drainage systems, as specified under prior law.
 - Those portions of drain or wastewater piping systems that are inside or outside of the outside foundation walls of a building, whereas prior law limited the definition to those portions of such systems that are outside such walls.
- Specifies that “plumbing” does *not* include the following:
 - A rainwater gutter or downspout down to the point that it discharges into a plumbing system, a subsoil drain, or a foundation drain.
 - A process water reuse system if the process water reuse system is not connected to any plumbing fixture or appliance.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- A stormwater culvert under a roadway or walkway that is placed there only to equalize the water level from one end of the culvert to the other end.
- The practical installation of process piping within a sewage disposal plant.

In addition, the prior law definition of “plumbing” included a reference to a “plumbing and drainage system so designed and vent piping so installed as to...prohibit cross-connection, contamination or pollution of the potable water supply and distribution system...” The Act deletes the word “potable” from this provision, thus expanding it to potable and non-potable water systems.

Restricted Plumber’s License

The statutes recognize two classifications under the restricted plumber’s license. The Act changes the name of the first classification from “sewer services” to “systems and services” and specifies that persons so classified may install water services, stormwater use systems, and reclaimed water systems if the systems or services are to be located outside the outside foundation walls of a building, in addition to the types of systems specified in prior law. The Act also specifies that persons under the “appliances, equipment or devices” classification may install various types of equipment in connection with stormwater use and reclaimed water systems, in addition to installing such equipment in connection with the types of systems specified in prior law.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on May 6, 2010.

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