

Oregon
Interpretive Ruling No. 95-18
USE OF YARD HYDRANT STAND PIPES

Requested by: TERRY SWISHER
BUILDING CODES DIVISION CHIEF PLUMBING INSPECTOR

QUESTION

Should yard hydrants be permitted to be connected to a potable water system when the products are not approved for potable water use?

BACKGROUND

Current Plumbing Code provisions do not specifically address the use of yard hydrants. Yard hydrants are used for installation in locations where freezing temperatures will cause damage or failure to standard hose faucets.

FINDINGS

Yard hydrants are manufactured of materials which may not be approved for use with potable water and have a sub-surface drain opening. Because there is no national standard for the manufacturing of these products, a variety of materials are used in their production. The sub-surface drain opening creates a cross connection potential especially during high water conditions. It is impractical to correct the individual cross-connections due to the materials and the open sub-surface drain opening.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Authority. ORS 455.060 authorizes the Division to issue binding interpretive rulings on the building codes and on acceptability of materials, design or method of construction. Advice received from the Attorney General in OP #5208, October 1, 1981.

Code or factual issues to be resolved. Due to the above technical and scientific facts the Plumbing Board finds the materials and construction of yard hydrants, when installed with the appropriate testable back-flow protection required under the requirements of the Oregon State Plumbing Specialty Code, is equivalent in quality, strength, effectiveness, durability and safety as those installations addressed in the code when limited to the following installation methods:

1. Backflow protection is required to be of a type approved for high hazard contamination as defined in Section 1003 of the Oregon State Plumbing Specialty Code.
2. The installation of yard hydrants must be in conformance with the provisions of Section 1003(r), and each outlet shall be posted: "DANGER—UNSAFE WATER".
3. Backflow devices must be registered with the local water purveyor and tested annually as required by the State Health Division Drinking Water Section.

ANALYSIS

Yard hydrants are not designed for installation on potable water systems and require added protection to protect the health and safety of the public from non-approved materials and potential cross connection contamination of the drinking water.

CONCLUSION

When installed properly and within the limitations of this ruling, the use of yard hydrants is equivalent to the current code method of conventional outdoor faucet connections.

(signed October 20, 1995)
Harry C. Reeder, Chairman
Plumbing Board

Date

The recommendations and findings of the Board are accepted and the Interpretation is adopted effective immediately.

(signed October 25, 1995)
Joseph A. Brewer III, Administrator
Building Codes Division

Date