

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

Department of Commerce

Rule No. : Chapters Comm 81 - 84

Relating to Plumbing
:

1. Description of the objective of the rule.

The objective of the rule is to update the department's administrative rules relating to plumbing. This comprehensive code update may result in one or more rule packages to be presented for public hearings, and may include minor changes to other department rules relating to plumbing.

2. Description of existing policies relevant to the rule and of new policies proposed to be included in the rule and an analysis of policy alternatives.

The current rules of chapters Comm 81 – 84 apply to the design, installation and inspection of plumbing, and include references to many national standards and reflect national trends.

The plumbing code was last updated in December, 2004. The stormwater section received the majority of the changes from that revision. This code project will evaluate updating the plumbing requirements to reflect changing technology and options. The target effective date for this revision is the Spring of 2008.

The alternative of not updating these chapters will result in administrative rules that are not consistent with currently recognized national standards and practices related to plumbing.

3. Statutory authority for the rule.

Section 145.02 (3) (d), Stats.

4. Estimate of the amount of time that state employees will spend to develop the rule and of other resources necessary to develop the rule.

The department estimates that it will take approximately 1,000 hours to develop this rule. This time includes reviewing the current codes and related national standards, then drafting the rule and processing the rule through public hearings, legislative review and adoption. The department will assign existing staff to perform the review and develop the rule changes. There are no other resources necessary to develop the rule.

5. Description of all of the entities that will be affected by the rule.

This rule will affect any entity that is involved with the plumbing industry.

6. Summary and preliminary comparison of any existing or proposed federal regulation that is intended to address the activities to be regulated by the rule.

There are several existing federal rules that impact plumbing including the Lead Solder, Pipe and Flux law contained in 42 USC Sec. 300g-6., the Lead Contamination in School Drinking Water law in 42 USC Sec. 300j-24., and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System law of 33 USC Sec. 1342. The requirements currently contained in these federal laws are reflected in the Wisconsin Uniform Plumbing Code.

There is one proposed federal regulation concerning plumbing connections to manufactured homes, in Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 79, April 26, 2005. Several of the proposed requirements exceed the standards of the Wisconsin Uniform Plumbing Code. These include the requirement for a shutoff valve to be located underneath or adjacent to the home, a condition that the water heater be removed for air testing water systems, and a requirement for the installation of a drain cleanout when pipe pitch is 1/8" per foot.

Approved for publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register at Madison, Wisconsin, this date: _____

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mary P. Burke, Secretary

Approved for implementation at Madison, Wisconsin, this date: _____

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mary P. Burke, Secretary