



DIVISION OF INDUSTRY SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | SUMMER 2023

Alternate Approval for Sizing Water Distribution Piping

On May 3, 2022, the Department granted an alternate approval for a new methodology used for sizing water distribution systems. The stipulations are strict, but leniency is given to allow for smaller minimum sizes.

The approval is based on data and testing provided by the International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO). IAPMO is a community of plumbing experts playing a vital public health role in assuring access to clean water and sanitation since 1926.

The [approval letter](#) with all the stipulations can be found on the [public look-up](#) page of eSLA. The product name is IAPMO Water Demand Calculator (WDC).

Currently, the focus of the approval pertains to mains located in one- and two-family dwellings as well as non-public multiple dwellings as defined in Wis. Admin. Code §§ [SPS 381.01\(155\)](#) and [\(162\)](#). The application is also limited to the installation of water conserving plumbing fixtures, fixture fittings, and appliances.

Safety Month in Wisconsin

Governor Tony Evers proclaims May 2023 as Building Safety Month!



Building inspectors and municipal authorities gathered on April 21, 2023, for the annual League of Wisconsin Municipalities conference in Oshkosh. Here, DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth presented a plaque signed by Governor Evers indicating Safety Month, to Bill Hebert and the Building Inspectors Institute.

Read the Governor's full proclamation [here](#).

Submission Document Updates

The documents linked below have been updated. Be sure to use current versions of DIS forms and documents in your submittals. Failure to do so may cause delays in your plan review.

- [Commercial Building Plan Review Checklist](#)
- [Plumbing Plan Review Recap/Inspection - Health Care](#)
- [Water Calculation Worksheet \(SBD-6479\)](#)

We update guidance and reference documents regularly. Always use the most current version of any DSPS-provided document.

Your Fire Sprinkler System May Be In Danger

Although the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) has found that sprinklers are 96% effective on fires, some fire sprinkler systems could be compromised if interior temperatures dip below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. For that reason, many automatic fire sprinkler systems use antifreeze to prevent system piping from freezing, related system disruption, and property damage. However, the NFPA determined that some existing antifreeze solutions can, in certain circumstances, fuel fires rather than control them. As a result, the NFPA updated its rules about the allowable use of antifreeze in 2013.

The State of Wisconsin currently adopts NFPS 13 -2013 for installation and NFPA 25 - 2011 standard for inspection, testing, and maintenance of automatic sprinkler systems. Simply exchanging an older antifreeze solution with the newer listed solutions is not the answer. Often, due to the higher level of toxicity, additional changes to the existing automatic fire sprinkler system design, such as upgraded back-flow prevention, may be necessary to ensure proper protection.

DIS is aware that some UL 2901 listed antifreeze solutions contain chemical additives (e.g., corrosion inhibitors) in addition to aqueous solutions of glycerin or propylene glycol, and may not meet the definition of 'Non-Toxic' as defined in SPS 381.01(163). Therefore, all new installation and alterations utilizing listed antifreeze must comply with SPS 382.41(3)(a) conforming to one of the following standards:

- ↑ Reduced Pressure Principal Backflow Preventers and Reduced Pressure Fire Protection Principal Backflow Preventers ASSE 1013-2011.
- ↑ Reduced Pressure Detector Fire Protection Backflow Prevention Assemblies ASSE 1047-2011.
- ↑ An alternative high-hazard cross-connection control device acceptable to the Department.

More Information

[DSPS Article Re: the use of antifreeze in automatic fire sprinkler](#)

For more information about the code changes and for approved antifreeze solutions, read NFPA's [Current Requirements for Sprinkler Systems Containing Antifreeze Summary](#) or visit their website at: <https://www.nfpa.org/antifreeze>

Questions regarding this subject can be sent to: DPSSBFireprotech@Wisconsin.Gov

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DIS PROGRAM INFO

DIS PROGRAMS

See the list of program webpages:

dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs

DIS TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

Each program maintains separate communication inboxes. Find these email addresses at the link below.

[dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/
Contacts](https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/Contacts)

CREDENTIAL LOOK-UP

Want to check the status of your
Trades credential?

Use esla.wi.gov/publiclookup for
dwelling contractor credentials, UDC
inspectors, or soil professionals.

See licensesearch.wi.gov for all other
credentials.

ESLA CORNER

USER GUIDE AND HELP PAGE

dsps.wi.gov/Pages/eSLAResources



esla.wi.gov

The Latest Buzz Word at DSPS: *Audits*

It is important to ensure the health and safety of all citizens in Wisconsin. In an effort to do so, DIS must ensure statewide standardization and to ensure this standardization, DIS is resuming performance audits. These performance audits will take place throughout every municipality and inspection agency within the state.

Performance audits evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of programs to determine if there are opportunities for improvement or change. DIS uses laws, code, and best practices as criteria in evaluating municipalities or inspection agencies and making recommendations when opportunities for improvement are found.

Performance audits answer questions such as:

- 1) Are programs achieving their intended objectives or outcomes?
- 2) Are services provided efficiently and/or equitably?
- 3) Are legal requirements and rules being met?
- 4) Are programs using evidence-based best practices?

UDC

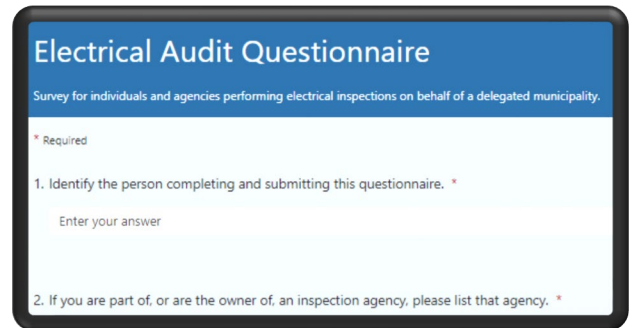
Audits for UDC were performed in the past however they were suspended around 2017 when [2015 Wisconsin ACT 211](#) went into effect and UDC Consultants took on the role of inspectors for municipalities that were not delegated to perform the permitting and inspection function. See the [2015 Wisconsin Act 211 FAQ](#) for more information.

Now that UDC permitting and inspections are contracted through [third-party inspection agencies](#), DIS now has capacity to resume the UDC audit program. Audits will be carried out with the goal of education and an outreach as part of DIS's overall efforts to establish uniformity in the enforcement and administration of the Uniform Dwelling Code. This auditing program will aim to reach out to all of the state's municipalities in a 5-year cycle. Please be mindful if you receive a notification from your District UDC consultant about an audit and respond accordingly.

Electrical

Later this year, DIS Electrical Consultants will begin performance auditing of municipalities, similar to the UDC audit program. Be on the lookout for more information from DIS on electrical audits and be mindful if you receive communication from your DIS Electrical Consultant.

Example Audit Questionnaire:



The image shows a screenshot of a digital questionnaire titled "Electrical Audit Questionnaire". The subtitle reads "Survey for individuals and agencies performing electrical inspections on behalf of a delegated municipality." Below the title, there are two questions marked as required with an asterisk. Question 1 asks to "Identify the person completing and submitting this questionnaire." and includes a text input field labeled "Enter your answer". Question 2 asks to "If you are part of, or are the owner of, an inspection agency, please list that agency." The form is displayed on a tablet-like device with a reflection effect below it.

Commercial Electrical Consultant Changes

DIS recently hired a new Commercial Electrical Consultant to our staff, Scott Demers. Scott has been with the Department for 4 months where he has been training and riding along with our other Electrical Consultants. With the addition of Scott, the [Consultant District Map](#) has changed significantly. Ensure you are looking at the latest version and know who your consultant is.

In addition, last quarter we announced that DIS contracted the entire state out to third-party inspection agencies for commercial electrical permitting and inspections. There have been changes to this [Permit and Inspection Map](#) since the last newsletter. Ensure you know which agency is assigned to each county since the permit and inspection fees may differ from one county to the next.

DIS Electrical Consultants remain responsible for closing out and inspecting their active permits, while also answering technical questions emailed to the DSPSSBElectricTech@Wisconsin.gov techbox.

Open DIS Positions

Visit wisc.jobs to apply today!

Plumbing Plan Review/Inspector

Two positions available:

One position covers the Northwest counties of the State (Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Price, Polk, Barron, and Rusk). *Job ID 9958*

The other position covers the South-Central counties of the State (Dane, Jefferson, Rock, and Green). Both positions are open until filled. *Job ID 9852*

Fire Suppression Systems Plan Reviewer

This position will provide technical support and review complex fire protection system plans for compliance with relevant codes and statutes. *Job ID 10277*

Commercial Building Inspector

This inspector will be responsible for Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Rock, and Washington counties. Qualified candidates will have the Commercial Building Inspector license at the time of application deadline. *Job ID 9572*

Electrical Inspection Consultant

This position requires independent statewide travel throughout Wisconsin and act as a primary consultant on technical and complex code issues related to electrical permitting and installation. Qualified candidates will have the Commercial Electrical Inspector license and the Master Electrician license at the time of application deadline. *Job ID 10486*

Recent Enforcement Actions

- A Nekoosa Master Electrician was suspended for fourteen days after a Department investigation found that the Master Electrician signed an affidavit that he was the Master Electrician for the project and the affidavit had also been signed by another company who represented that it was the electrical contractor company for the project. The Department determined that the company did not possess an electrical contractor credential and that there were electrical code violations at the site performed by the company. The Department also found that the affidavit the Master Electrician signed, attesting that "the following wiring for electricity was done" was not in line with the payment received and work performed according to the Master Electrician's own statements. The Department found that he did not provide general or direct supervision over the project. The Department held that signing an affidavit where there were electrical code violations was negligent and incompetent, signing the affidavit when the electrical contractor was not licensed by the Department was negligent, and that it was misconduct to have signed the affidavit based on the amount of work that was performed with no general or direct supervision.
- The Department entered \$1,350 in forfeitures against an unlicensed Raddison individual for engaging in plumbing without a license and for advertising plumbing services without possessing a license or having a master plumber on staff.
- The Department entered a \$2,500 forfeiture against an unlicensed Stoughton individual for identifying himself as an electrical contractor without possessing the necessary credentials in violation of Wis. Stat. § 101.862(1).

10 Things to Know About Plan Review and Codes

- 10 Most DIS Commercial Building Plan Reviewers are licensed professionals.** There are currently 18 Commercial Building Plan Reviewers spread across Wisconsin. 5 are Registered Architects, 5 are Professional Engineers, 3 are HVAC Designers, and 12 hold Commercial Building Inspector licenses.
- 9 The Rule Making Process involves DSPS staff, but DSPS doesn't make the rules.** DSPS staff will provide input but the resulting body of work for a code change must go through the Legislature and the Governor's office before becoming law. DSPS will promulgate the code to the public. See the [Rulemaking Process](#).
- 8 Is your plan on hold because the index sheet doesn't exactly match the PDF uploaded for review?.** Sign and seal the index page of the plan set in lieu of signing and sealing each page. Seemingly picky issues like this are actually written into statutes and administrative codes. For this example, see Wis. Admin. Code § [A-E 2.02](#).
- 7 Plans are no longer scheduled to a reviewer with an appointment date.** In 2021, a First In First Out (FIFO) system was launched, creating a queue for reviewers to pull plans in order of receipt.
- 6 Preliminary plan reviews are available.** Discuss critical design issues with the plan reviewer prior to completing the construction documents. The preliminary plan reviewer will also review the construction documents.
- 5 General code questions can be relayed to the email "Tech Box" for that area.** The email responses provide general code answers and/or direct you to an appropriate code section based on the question submitted. Use DSPSSBBuildingTech@wi.gov for commercial building code questions or use other [tech box](#) for disciplines such as UDC, Fire Alarm/Fire Suppression, Plumbing, Electrical, etc.
- 4 Permission to Start is available.** Give your project a head start on footings and foundations while you wait for the full plan set to be reviewed. Just submit the signature page with the owner's signature and required fees with your plan review.
- 3 Use Reference Documents to assist with your project.** The [Commercial Building webpage](#) on the DSPS website has a code template in dwg format, checklists, and various other resources. This is also where you find the list of Delegated Municipalities, to determine if plan review can be done locally.
- 2 Current adopted standards** are listed in the Commercial Building Code, [SPS § 361.05](#). These include 2015 IBC, IEBC, IECC, IMC, IFGC, and within those standards, ASHRAE 90.1-2013 and ANSI A117.1 - 2009. The Electrical Code adopt NEC 2017 under [SPS § 316](#). Wisconsin has its own code for plumbing under [SPS § 380-387](#). Wisconsin also has its own code (not the IRC) for one- and two-family homes with the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) under [SPS § 320-325](#).
- 1 Approximately 80% of Wisconsin's code amendments reduce requirements** from the adopted ICC standards. The page inserts are available on the [Commercial Building webpage](#) under the Publications menu.

Excerpted from 2022 AIA Wisconsin article by Jennifer Zettler, DSPS