



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

BOSTON CHAPTER

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Reclaimed Water Regulations

I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Hugh Kelleher of the PHCC for his help in my research for this month's article.

The Mass Division of Environmental Protection, (DEP) has a proposed set of new regulations which will be known as *314CMR 20.00; Reclaimed Water Regulations*. This will replace the DEP's interim guidelines of 1999. These new regulations are intended to promote the use of reclaimed water, as they allow more uses for the reclaimed water. A new set of permitting and monitoring procedures is also established. The new regs are available on the DEP website.

The proposed regulations establish three classes of reuse, Class A being the most stringent and Class C the least. For each class there is a particular permitting and monitoring process. Toilet flushing use becomes more stringent than previously allowed although preexisting uses will not be affected.

What does all this mean to Plumbing Engineers? It will change the permitting for wastewater reuse systems but will not affect the use of Rainwater reclamation. It allows us to be more creative in helping our clients to "Go Green".

It seems to me that we need to get more specific in our terminology. We seem to categorize all reuse systems as *Grey Water* or maybe *Gray Water*. The regulations apply to *Reclaimed Water* which the regulations define as "*...domestic wastewater that is treated to a level such that it is suitable for beneficial reuse.*" Simply put these regulations will apply to the reuse of grey water (waste water from showers, lays, etc.), black water (soil piping or urinal waste), or a combination of the two. The regulations will not impact the use of *Rain Water Reclamation* systems. Uncontaminated Rain water reclamation systems will continue to be subject to the Plumbing Code, 314CMR 9.00, and 310CMR 10.00.

All of these systems (including Rain Water Reclamation) however, are considered Dedicated Systems and will require approval by the Mass State Plumbing Board. These proposed new regulations will require DEP review, but no additional Plumbing Board approvals are required. If you are designing such systems please consult early on with the local inspector and the state Board to review your specific project.

Manuel B. Garcia, P.E., C.P.D. Sept. 17, 2008