

# Irrigation Systems INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: TCEQ Rules 344

DATE:

CODE REF: 344.62(n)

7/25/2008

SUBJECT: Use of Irrigation Systems for Pools and Fountains Fill

**Question:**

1. What governs the installation of auto-fill equipment for pools and fountains?
2. What code applies to the installation of pools and fountains and who may install these systems?

**Answer:**

**(Question 1)** TCEQ Landscape Irrigation Rules 344.62 (n) states the following;

“Water contained within the piping of an irrigation system is deemed to be non-potable. No drinking or domestic water usage, such as, but not limited to, filling swimming pools or decorative fountains, shall be connected to an irrigation system.....”

**Conclusion:** When the use of the water system is deemed to be an “irrigation system” as defined by TCEQ 344.1 (21) the swimming pool and fountain water supply may not be obtain from the system. Therefore it must be considered that the water supply must be obtained from another source. The irrigator license only applies to the design, installation and repair of the irrigation system as defined by TCEQ rules. A licensed irrigator, licensed installer, or licensed technician may not install a water delivery system or make water supply connections to fountains, swimming pools, or any other water activated or required device to a public potable water supply.

**(Question 2)** TCEQ Rules prohibits the use of an irrigation system for the supply of water to pools and fountains, these systems must be considered as a plumbing installation and be installed in accordance with the adopted plumbing (IPC or UPC) for the jurisdiction and the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) Plumbing Licensing Law and Board Rules. Plumbing is defined in Section 361.1 as;

(37) **Plumbing** - All piping, fixtures, appurtenances, and appliances, including disposal systems, drain or waste pipes, or any combination of these that: supply, recirculate, drain, or eliminate water, gas, medical gasses and vacuum, liquids, and sewage for all personal or domestic purposes in and about buildings where persons live, work, or assemble; connect the building on its outside with the source of water, gas, or other liquid supply, or combinations of these, on the premises, or the water main on public property; and carry waste water or sewage from or within a building to the sewer service lateral on public property or the disposal or septic terminal that holds private or domestic sewage. The installation, repair, service, maintenance, alteration, or renovation of all piping, fixtures, appurtenances, and appliances on premises where persons live, work, or assemble that supply gas, medical gasses and vacuum, water, liquids, or any combination of these, or dispose of waste water or sewage.

Therefore the installation of these supply systems must be installed by a licensed plumber unless the person doing the installation is within the exemptions of Plumbing Licensing Law Section 1305.051-1305.057. It will necessary for the licensed plumber to get a plumbing permit and plumbing inspection for the installation. A plumbing permit and inspections will be required regardless of who is installing this type of system.

SIGNATURE: *Lonnie Erwin,*

Chief Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector  
City of Dallas