

# Drinking Water Supply

Rules and Regulations  
Chapter 511-3-3

Effective: 08/01/1995

**RULES  
OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 511-3-3  
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY  
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**511-3-3-.01 Applicability. Amended.**

These Rules shall be in force from August 1, 1995 and shall have application except in the following cases:

- (a) In any county or municipality which has a local health code in effect;
- (b) To any facility or system under the jurisdiction of and regulated by the Department of Natural Resources or its successor, under the Georgia Water Quality Control Act or the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act or their successors;
- (c) To any public or community sewage treatment system.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-12-8. **History.** Original Rule entitled “Applicability” adopted. F. Jun. 22, 1995; eff. Aug. 1, 1995, as specified by the Agency. **Amended:** F. Dec. 12, 1996; eff. Jan. 1, 1997.

**511-3-3-.02 Definitions.**

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning as indicated:

- (a) “ANNULUS” is the same as “annular space” and means any artificially-created void existing between a well casing or liner pipe and a borehole well.
- (b) “APPROVAL OR APPROVED” means acceptable or accepted by the Health Authority in accordance with applicable specifications stated herein or with additional criteria accepted by the Health Authority.

(c) "AQUIFER" means one or more, or parts of one or more, geologic formations capable of yielding water to a well.

(d) "BACK SIPHONAGE" means siphonage of water or other liquids from external sources into the water supply during times of pressure differential, whether due to improper connections or failure of devices in the system.

(e) "BORED WELL" means any well excavated by an earth auger in which the casing extends from the ground surface into the aquifer.

(f) "CERTIFIED WELL CONTRACTOR" means any person who:

1. Engages in the construction, repair or alteration of individual on-site drinking water supply systems, either private or semi-public;
2. Is licensed as a well contractor in accordance with the Water Well Standards Act of 1985, O.C.G.A. Sections 12-5-120 et seq.;

(g) "COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT" means any development other than residential development. It includes multiple family, retail, wholesale, commercial, office, industrial, church, etc., development.

(h) "COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY" means any public water supply which serves at least fifteen (15) service connections used by year-round residents or which regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) year-round residents.

(i) "CROSS CONNECTION" means any configuration whereby a potable water supply is connected with any water supply system, sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture or other device which contains (or may contain) contaminated water, sewage or other unsafe waste or liquid which may be capable of contaminating the potable water supply.

(j) "DPH" means the Georgia Department of Public Health or its successor agency.

(k) "DNR" means the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

(l) "DRILLED WELL" means any well, whether excavated by rotary or percussion, hydraulic drilling, having a casing that extends from the ground surface through an impermeable formation to an aquifer where adequate capacity is obtained.

(m) "FLOOD PLAIN" means any area susceptible to being flooded or as designated by the one hundred (100) year flood plain area, including Type A Zone flood areas as determined or established in flood studies. This term shall also include one hundred year water levels in detention and retention ponds.

(n) "HEALTH AUTHORITY" means the local county health board.

(o) “NON-COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY” means any public water supply which regularly serves at least fifteen (15) service connections or an average of twenty-five (25) individuals for at least sixty (60) days out of the year.

(p) “NON-DRINKING WATER SUPPLY” means any water supply not specifically used, nor intended or designed to be used, as a potable water supply. The term shall include but not be limited to water supplies for irrigation purposes, heating and cooling of structures, etc.

(q) “ONSITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM” means a system that includes a septic tank, absorption field and all other elements intended to be used for management and disposal of sewage onsite.

(r) “PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT” means construction including but not limited to any site preparation, grading, excavation for slabs or footings, erection of a structure(s), road construction or installation of an onsite sewage management system(s).

(s) “POINT OF AVAILABILITY” means the nearest location where a community water supply may be connected as determined by the appropriate governmental jurisdiction.

(t) “POTABLE WATER SUPPLY” means any water supply that is satisfactory for drinking, culinary and domestic purposes. Potable water must meet the current standards established by the Environmental Protection Division, DNR.

(u) “PREMISES” means any place or building(s) where people live, work or congregate.

(v) PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY means any water supply consisting of a single well and serving no more than two (2) single residences on one lot.

(w) “PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM” means a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, if such system has at least fifteen service connections, or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five individuals, at least sixty (60) days out of the year.

(x) “RESIDENCE” means any building or structure intended for housing of a single family.

(y) “SANITARY SEWER” means a pipe or system of pipes, manholes, etc., constructed for the purpose of conveying sewage.

(z) “SEMI-PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY” means any water supply other than a private water supply which serves less than fifteen (15) service connections or twenty-five (25) people on a daily basis at any time during the year.

(aa) “SPECIAL EVENT” means any activity attracting more than fifty (50) persons that is sponsored, organized, promoted, managed or financed by any person, group, partnership, organization, corporation, business or governmental entity where individuals congregate to participate in or observe an activity in outdoor or portable enclosed or semi-enclosed structures for more than two (2) consecutive hours.

(bb) "USEABLE AREA" means the total area in a lot that is determined by the Health Authority to be suitable for installation of an onsite sewage management system including the reserve area. The area shall not include any bodies of water, flood plain, easements, etc., except those portions that would be precluded for use by this Chapter via minimum separation distance requirements.

(cc) "WATER SUPPLY" means the source from which the water is obtained and all structures, machinery, conduits and other appurtenances by means of which the water is collected, treated, stored, protected, or delivered to the customer/consumer.

(dd) "WELL" means an excavation or opening into the ground by which groundwater is sought or obtained.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-12-8. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Definitions" adopted. F. Jun. 22, 1995; eff. Aug. 1, 1995, as specified by the Agency.

### **511-3-3-.03 General Provisions.**

(1) Owners of private homes and semi-public water supplies and all rented or leased premises shall furnish at least one (1) convenient outlet with the capacity to supply an adequate quantity of potable water for drinking and domestic purposes. The number, type and location of the water system appurtenances shall meet applicable building and plumbing codes. Pressure and capacity shall be commensurate with occupancy and use levels and shall meet applicable codes. Special event sponsors must provide an adequate number of potable water supplies as set forth by the local plumbing code.

(2) No person may install or repair a semi-public water supply nor install a private water supply unless he or she is a licensed well contractor in accordance with the Water Well Standards Act of 1985, O.C.G.A. Sections 12-5-120 *et seq.*

(3) Licensed contractors are subject to the requirements of the Water Well Standards Act of 1985, O.C.G.A. Sections 12-5-120 *et seq.*, and this Rules Chapter. Violations of this Chapter shall be considered in view of the requirements of the Act, and contractors shall be held liable for any violations of either or both if applicable.

(4) A coliform test performed by an approved lab shall be required upon completion of construction and following disinfection of the system. The sample results must be satisfactory before final construction can be approved. Disinfection and sampling must be continued until satisfactory results are obtained.

(5) Upon request by the property owner, the Health Authority will sample the supply to determine bacteriological quality, provided well construction meets all regulatory requirements. Sampling of unapproved or noncomplying wells shall be at the Health Authority's discretion. A sample is considered satisfactory and meeting the minimum bacteriological quality limits of this regulation if one (1) or less coliform bacterium per one hundred (100) milliliter of sample is present.

(6) No person shall allow a public, private, or semi-public water supply to be connected directly or indirectly with any other water supply, sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or other device which contains or may contain contaminated water, liquid, gasses, sewage, or other waste of unknown or unsafe quality capable of contaminating the water system. No backflow, configuration bypass arrangement, jumper connections, removable section, swivel or changeover device, or other temporary, permanent or potential connection through which (or because of which) backflow siphonage could occur will be allowed.

(7) No outlet from a water supply shall be Installed or maintained so that back siphonage is possible. Approved backflow preventer devices shall be required on all outlets to prevent contamination of the supply and aquifer. The procedure for backflow and back siphonage prevention and cross connection control shall conform to those recommended by the American Water Works Association Manual 14, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Cross Connection Manual.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-12-8. **History.** Original Rule entitled "General Provisions" adopted. F. Jun. 22, 1995; eff. Aug. 1, 1995, as specified by the Agency.

### **511-3-3-.04 Enforcement.**

The enforcement and administration of this Chapter shall be in accordance with O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-5 or its successor.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2-1, 31-2-2, 31-2-4, 31-12-8. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Enforcement" adopted. F. Jun. 22, 1995; eff. Aug. 1, 1995, as specified by the Agency.