

**CITY OF COLUMBIA ENGINEERING REGULATIONS  
PART 13: SPECIFICATION FOR APPLICATION FOR SANITARY  
SEWER SERVICE  
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# CITY OF COLUMBIA ENGINEERING REGULATIONS

## PART 13: SPECIFICATION FOR APPLICATION FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

### **13.1 How To Apply**

Application for sanitary sewer service involves a contractual arrangement that requires the signature of the property owner or his legally appointed representative. See attached special power of attorney form. Application must be made at the Department of Utilities and Engineering, seventh floor, 1136 Washington Street, Columbia, SC. The applicant must provide the street and number where service is desired.

### **13.2 Agencies Assigning Street Numbers**

The agencies assigning street numbers are:

13.2.1 Inside the Columbia City Limits: Department of Utilities and Engineering, seventh floor, 1136 Washington Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

13.2.2 Richland County: Planning Dept., 2020 Hampton St., Columbia, South Carolina.

13.2.3 Lexington County: Planning and GIS Dept., 212 Southlake Road, Lexington, South Carolina.

### **13.3 Required Verification**

A department staff member verifies the following:

13.3.1 That service is available and the system has the capacity to accept the additional loading.

13.3.2 That location to be served is inside/outside the City. If outside but contiguous to City Limits, then applicant is informed that the property owner must petition to be annexed or execute a Declaration of Covenant for contiguous property prior to being served.

13.3.3 That location of service will be within a private easement; City street, Department of Transportation right-of-way or County road. This is done to determine what type permit is required.

13.3.4 That if the service is for a residence, is it served by a sewage pump station meeting the criteria stated in Section 13.8? If yes, the work order and any other necessary records shall be properly annotated to insure the surcharge is billed.

### **13.4 Service Connection Within SCDHPT Right-Of-Way**

If the location for service connection is within a South Carolina Department of Transportation right-of-way, there will be a delay in making the tap. The Department of Utilities and Engineering must prepare and forward to the South Carolina Department of Transportation an application for permission to work within the Department of Transportation right-of-way. Under normal conditions, the permit is received from the South Carolina Department of Transportation within two or four weeks. There are similar

requirements for rights-of-way under the jurisdiction of Richland County or Lexington County.

### **13.5 Emergency Permit Procedure (South Carolina Department of Transportation)**

13.5.1 If an applicant states that the connection is needed immediately and is an emergency, the Department of Utilities and Engineering will prepare, as quickly as possible, the application and sketch required by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The city will then allow the applicant to deliver the application and sketch to the office of the Maintenance Engineer, South Carolina Department of Transportation. The Maintenance Engineer will prepare a permit granting the Department of Utilities and Engineering permission for City forces to make the sewer tap.

### **13.6 Sewer Tapping Fees**

See current City Code Section 23-148.

Sec. 23-148. Sewer tapping fees.

(a) Tapping charges for sewer connections shall be:

(1) Taps installed by developer/owner: \$300 for each tap.

(2) Taps installed by city forces: \$1,300 for each tap.

(b) Taps are required as follows:

(1) Single-family residence: One tap.

(2) Single-family mobile home: One tap.

(3) Multifamily unit: One tap per dwelling unit.

(4) Separate laundry facilities on the same premises restricted to use by residents of the multifamily units only: One tap for every two washing machines using not more than 40 gallons per wash cycle. Larger machines shall require one tap each.

(5) Hotels and motels: One tap plus one-half tap per room.

(6) Day school: One tap for each 20 students and staff (average daily attendance).

(7) Institutions (except nursing homes and hospitals) having sleeping facilities (i.e., penitentiary, reformatory, boarding school, full-time care facility): One tap for each four beds.

(8) Contaminated groundwater: One tap for each 400 gallons, or portion thereof, or estimated average input per day into the sewer system.

- (9) All others: The number of taps shall be computed by the city engineer in accordance with the criteria of the state board of health on the basis of one tap for each 400 gallons, or portion thereof, of estimated average input per day into the sewer system.

(Code 1979, § 5-4004; Ord. No. 97-57, 9-17-97; Ord. No. 2006-049, 11-15-06)

### **13.7 Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion Fees**

In addition to the sewer tapping fees enumerated above, Section 23-152 of the Code of Ordinance establishes a sewage treatment plant expansion fee. This fee must be paid at the time application for service is made, or an extended payment plan agreement must be executed.

Sec. 23-152. Sewer plant expansion fee.

- (a) Amount. In addition to those fees established and required by section 23-148, a sewer plant expansion fee shall be required to be paid prior to each sewer service connection to offset the cost of constructing increased treatment plant and collection system capacity or capital expenditures to retain current system capacity in accordance with the capital improvements plan of the City of Columbia. The costs of construction or expenditures to retain current system capacity shall include design and engineering costs, materials, labor and debt service on any bonds which may be issued to provide the intended plant capacity increase. The amount of the expansion fee for each connection shall be computed by multiplying the number of taps required for each application in accordance with section 23-148 times \$1,320.00 from July 1, 2007 until December 31, 2007 and times \$2,640.00 thereafter.
- (b) Extended payment. At the time of application for the sewer service connection, applicant may elect to pay the entire fee in full or pay the fee, or any portion thereof, in forty-eight (48) equal monthly installments with interest thereon at the rate of seven and one-half (7.5%) percent per annum. The monthly payments for the plant expansion fee shall be added to and collected with the monthly sewer bill for the property to be served commencing with the first sewer bill, and shall be collectible in the same manner as any other sewer charges by the City of Columbia. In the event of the sale of the property being served by the sewer connection, the unpaid portion of the fee subject to extended payment in accordance with this section shall be immediately due and payable unless Purchaser(s) assume the extended payment obligation at closing. Until Purchaser(s) apply for transfer of sewer service and/or assume or pay in full the unpaid extended payment, no further sewer service shall be provided to such property.

(Code 1979, §§ 5-4009, 5-4010; Ord. No. 2006-050, 11-15-06; Ord. No. 2006-108, 5-16-07)

**13.8 Availability of Sanitary Sewer Service**

In order to be available to provide SERVICE, the sanitary sewer main must be located within the boundary of the property to be served, or within the right-of-way of a road or street adjoining the property. Sanitary sewer service lines that must cross intervening private property to reach the sanitary sewer main shall not be approved. All sanitary sewer service lines are subject to the plumbing code of the City or County having jurisdiction as to material, size, depth of lay and length.

**13.9 Sewage Pumping Station Surcharge**

In addition to the Sanitary Sewer Service charges, a surcharge of \$8.00 per month for residences served by small sewage pump stations. A small pump station is defined as one which serves 50 or fewer residences. When the number of residences actually served by a pump station exceeds 50, the surcharge shall be removed from the billings for residences served by that particular station. The surcharge shall apply only to sewage pump stations accepted by the City for operation and maintenance on or after March 1, 1992.

**Table 13-1. Unit Contributory Loadings to All Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

Unit Contributory Loadings to All Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities	
Type of Establishment	Hydraulic Loading (GPD)
A. Airport:	
1. Per Employee	8
2. Per Passenger	4
B. Apartments, Condominiums, Patio Homes:	
1. Three (3) Bedrooms (Per Unit)	300
2. Two (2) Bedrooms (Per Unit)	225
3. One (1) Bedroom (Per Unit)	150
C. Assembly Halls: (Per Seat)	4
D. Barber Shop:	
1. Per Employee	8
2. Per Chair	75
E. Bars, Taverns:	
1. Per Employee	8
2. Per Seat, Excluding Restaurant	30
F. Beauty Shop:	
1. Per Employee	8
2. Per Chair	94
G. Boarding House, Dormitory: (Per Resident)	38
H. Bowling Alley:	
1. Per Employee	8
2. Per Lane, No Restaurant, Bar or Lounge	94
61-67, Appendix A. Unit Contributory Loadings to All Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities.	

Unit Contributory Loadings to All Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities (cont.)	
Type of Establishment	Hydraulic Loading (GPD)
I. Camps:	
1. Resort, Luxury (Per Person)	75
2. Summer (Per Person)	38
3. Day, with Central Bathhouse (Per Person)	26
4. Travel Trailer (Per Site)	131
J. Car Wash: (Per Cash Washed)	56
K. Churches: (Per Seat)	2
L. Clinics, Doctor's Office:	
1. Per Employee	11
2. Per Patient	4
M. Country Club, Fitness Center, Spa: (Per Member)	38
N. Dentist Office:	
1. Per Employee	11
2. Per Chair	6
3. Per Suction Unit; Standard Unit	278
4. Per Suction Unit; Recycling Unit	71
5. Per Suction Unit; Air Generated Unit	0
O. Factories, Industries:	
1. Per Employee	19
2. Per Employee, with Showers	26
3. Per Employee, with Kitchen	30
4. Per Employee, with Showers and Kitchen	34
P. Fairgrounds: (Average Attendance, Per Person)	4
Q. Grocery Stores: (Per Person, No Restaurant or Food Preparation)	19
R. Hospitals:	
1. Per Resident Staff	75
2. Per Bed	150
S. Hotels: (Per Bedroom, No Restaurant)	75
T. Institutions: (Per Resident)	75
U. Laundries: (Self Service, Per Machine)	300
V. Marinas: (Per Slip)	23
W. Mobile Homes: (Per Unit)	225
X. Motels: (Per Unit, No Restaurant)	75
Y. Nursing Homes:	
1. Per Bed	75
2. Per Bed, with Laundry	113
Z. Office, Small Stores, Business, Administration Buildings: (Per Person, No Restaurant)	19
AA. Picnic Parks: (Average Attendance, Per Person)	8
61-67, Appendix A. Unit Contributory Loadings to All Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities.	

Unit Contributory Loadings to All Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities (cont.)	
Type of Establishment	Hydraulic Loading (GPD)
BB. Prison/ Jail:	
1. Per Employee	11
2. Per Inmate	94
CC. Residences: (Per House, Unit)	300
DD. Rest Areas, Welcome Centers:	
1. Per Person	4
2. Per Person, with Showers	8
EE. Rest Homes:	
1. Per Bed	75
2. Per Bed, with Laundry	113
FF. Restaurants:	
1. Fast Food Type, Not Twenty Four (24) Hours (Per Seats)	30
2. Twenty Four (24) Hour Restaurant (Per Seat)	53
3. Drive-In (Per Car Served)	30
4. Vending Machine, Walk-up Deli (Per Person)	30
GG. Schools, Day Care:	
1. Per Person	8
2. Per Person, with Cafeteria	11
3. Per Person, with Cafeteria, Gym and Showers	15
HH. Service Stations:	
1. Per Employee	8
2. Per Car Served	8
3. Car Wash (Per Car Washed)	56
II. Shopping Centers, Large Department Stores, Malls: (Per Person, No Restaurant)	19
JJ. Stadiums, Coliseums: (Per Seat, No Restaurant)	4
KK. Swimming Pools: (Per Person, with Sewer Facilities and Showers)	8
LL. Theaters: Indoor (Per Seat), Drive In (Per Stall)	4
61-67, Appendix A. Unit Contributory Loadings to All Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities.	