

Summary of 2025 Revisions to the Water and Sewer General Rules and Regulations

The Division of Water and Sewer has updated its General Rules and Regulations. The following summary describes the reorganization, citing the Parts and Sections that are included in this update. This should help reviewers to quickly locate updated content that is important to them. The summary also identifies important content changes throughout this update, again to help in review.

PART 1 – PROVIDING PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

Specific content revisions include the following:

Revise Part 1, II.F Meter Vaults to read:

- F. Meter Vaults. Meter vaults shall be installed in an area dedicated as County easement. The business/property owner(s) shall prepare the easement documents. The business/property owner(s) shall prepare the easement documents and submit the document(s) for County review and approval before executing any such document(s). The vaults shall be dedicated to the County, and the County shall be responsible for maintenance of the vault(s) and appurtenances after final acceptance by County of the facilities installed under the CSA. The business/property owner(s) agree(s) to reimburse the County for any maintenance work required during the first year of operation after date of acceptance.

PART 3 – COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Specific content revisions include the following:

Revise Part 3, VI.C Compliance to read:

- C. Compliance. Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in discontinuation of the fire line service. In addition, it is punishable as a misdemeanor, subject to a fine as stated in Harford County Code §256-54 Violations and Penalties, or is punishable via issuance of a civil citation in accordance with Harford County Code §1-23, General Penalty.

PART 5 – BILLING AND COLLECTING

Specific content revisions include the following:

Revise Part 5, IV.H Returned Payments 1. and 2. to read:

1. Customers presenting a payment to the County that is later returned or not honored, for any reason, will receive a letter from Water and Sewer Billing allowing eight (8) calendar days to fulfill their payment obligation, in addition to a returned payment fee in the amount authorized by Maryland Commercial Law §15-802(b)(2). Payments must be made by cash, money order, certified funds or credit card.
2. Customers who fail to make the payment within the eight (8) days specified above will have their service interrupted and will be charged the turn-off service fee plus the returned payment fee.

Revise Part 5, IV.I Adjustments of Water or Sewer Bills 2.d to read:

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- d. An account that has been adjusted under the above provisions will not be eligible for a subsequent adjustment until after one (1) full year has elapsed.

PART 8 – WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS

Specific content revisions include the following:

Revise Part 8, V. Discharge Notification Requirements B. to delete the following:

- B. All spill prevention plans shall be submitted for review and approval to the Chief of Water and Sewer for Operations, Plant Operations Manager, or Plant Superintendent Wastewater Operations. Please refer to the Contact Information page of this document.

PART 9 – SEPTAGE DISPOSAL

Specific content revisions include the following:

Delete Part 9, I. DEFINITIONS A. and replace with:

I. GENERAL

- A. Reference. Harford County Code Chapter 256 ARTICLE VIII Part 4 Septage Haulers, §§ 256-81 through 256-86.

- B. Definitions used within this Part of the Rules and Regulations:

**Note: no change to the listed definitions

PART 11 – RECOUPMENTS, SURCHARGES AND POLICIES

This revision adds a stand-alone Cover to Part 11 which sorts all recoupments, surcharges, and policies into an active group and a closed group. Part 11 provides a link to each of those two groups.

PART 13 – WATER AND SEWER DESIGN GUIDELINES

This revision updates the stand-alone Cover to Part 13, updates the Table of Contents and page numbering and revises the date of the current version of the Water and Sewer Design Guidelines to January 1, 2026. Specific content revisions include the following:

Revise Chapter 4, 4.3.E. Pipeline Materials 2. Special Circumstances to add 2.b.3) to read:

- 1) For all drop sewer service connections, the drop connection shall be ductile iron per the Standard Details and the sewer main to which the drop service is connected shall be C900 PVC or ductile iron between the manholes.

Revise Chapter 4, 4.4.A. Manholes 5. Manhole Interior Coatings and Linings to read:

When required by the Division of Water and Sewer, the Engineer shall specify on the sewer profile, the use of special manhole coating/lining materials when significant hydrogen sulfide concentrations are anticipated. An example of this condition is a discharge manhole for a sewage force main as presented in Chapter 6, Section 6.12. Whenever a new force main or low-pressure sewer connects to an existing or proposed sewer manhole, a minimum of three manholes downstream from the force main discharge point shall be coated/lined as indicated in the Approved Materials List. If the construction of any of the aforementioned manholes are related to the new construction, the new manholes shall be coated/lined during manufacture. If a drop manhole is included within the first three downstream manholes, two

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additional manholes downstream of the drop manhole shall also be coated/lined as indicated in the Approved Materials List. The gravity mains between these manholes shall be designed using PVC pipe.

Additional manholes and mains further downstream may also require the level of protection stated above and will be determined by the Division of Water and Sewer based on pipe slopes, high flows, manhole spacing, sharp changes in direction, drop manholes, and when manholes are anticipated to experience turbulence.

Revise Chapter 6, 6.12. G. Appurtenances 2.a. Discharge Manholes to read:

- a. When a force main connects to an existing or proposed sewer manhole, the criteria from Chapter 4, Section 4.4.A.5 (Manhole Interior Coatings and Linings) shall be used.

PART 14 – WATER AND SEWER SPECIFICATIONS AND DETAILS

This revision updates the stand-alone Cover to Part 14, updates the Table of Contents and page numbering and revises the date of the current version of the Water and Sewer Specifications and Details to January 1, 2026.

All Standard Details are updated in AutoCAD with the current versions dated January 1, 2026. Standard Details with material changes include the following:

- W/3 – Typical Fire Hydrant Settings - revised changing the distance of the fire hydrant from the face of curb and edge of pavement consistent with updated DPW road sections.
- W/3a – Typical Fire Hydrant Settings (Combination Curb and Gutter) - deleted and combined with W/3 Typical Fire Hydrant Settings
- W/23 – Open System Domestic Service w/Fire Supply – updated for electromagnetic and ultrasonic meter use.
- W/23a – Open System Domestic Service w/Fire Supply Notes – added and updated for electromagnetic and ultrasonic meter use.
- W/24 – Closed System Domestic Service w/Fire Supply – updated for electromagnetic and ultrasonic meter use.
- W/24a – Closed System Domestic Service w/Fire Supply Notes – added and updated for ultrasonic electromagnetic meter use.
- W/25 – Standard Installation for 3" Thru 10" Combined Fire and Domestic Service – updated for electromagnetic and ultrasonic meter use.
- W/25a – Standard Installation for 3" Thru 10" Combined Fire and Domestic Service Notes – updated for electromagnetic and ultrasonic meter use.
- W/32 – Method of Blocking Tapped Plug – deleted.
- W/33 – Concrete Encasement and Cradles – deleted.

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W/35 – Water Valve Location at Intersections – revised to increase spacing of valves.

S/20 – PVC Drop Sewer Service Connection at Main – deleted

LP/15 – Typical Grinder Pump Electric Service – revised electrical conduit requirements.

LP/17 – Control Panel – electrical receptacle deleted from control panel, no longer available from manufacturer.

PART 15 – APPROVED LIST OF SUPPLIERS AND MATERIALS FOR WATER AND SEWER CONSTRUCTION

This revision updates the stand-alone Cover to Part 15, updates the Table of Contents and page numbering, and revises the date of the current version of the Approved List of Suppliers and Materials for Water and Sewer Construction to January 1, 2026.

PART 16 – APPROVED CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTORS/VENDORS

This revision updates the stand-alone Cover to Part 16, updates the Table of Contents and page numbering, and revises the date of the current version of the Approved Certification for Contractors/Vendors to January 1, 2026.